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EDITOR: ZLLEH
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VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

RUMIC WORLD TRILOGY™

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STORY & ART BY
RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

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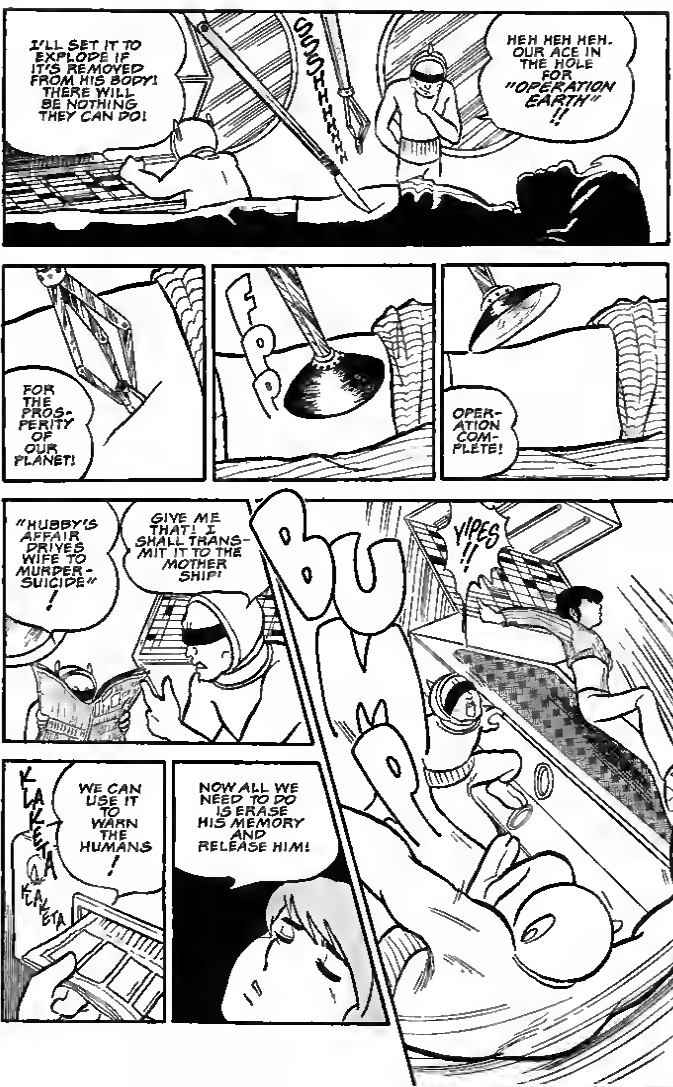
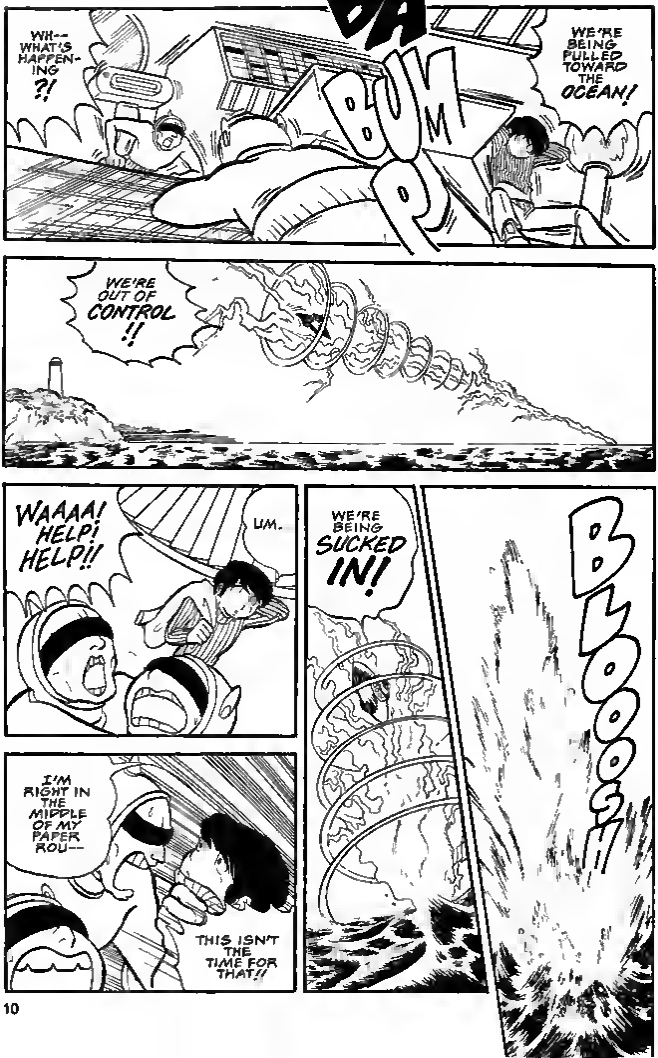
THOSE SELFISH ALIENS

JOG JOG JOG
JOG
JOG
YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
DELIVERING NEWSPAPERS!
WHAT ARE NEWSPAPERS?
HUH? YOU KNOW... PRINTED THINGS THAT COME OUT EVERY DAY TO TELL YOU ABOUT EVENTS AND STUFF!
HOW VERY USEFUL!
GLOMP
COME WITH ME!
WHO ARE YOU--??

NO ARGU-MENTS!
HEY!!
WHAP!
I HAVE RETURNED, NUMBER ONE---!
WELL DONE, NUMBER TWO!
MY PAPERS...
OH NO!
WE ARE ALIEN INVADERS! ARE YOU TERRIFIED??

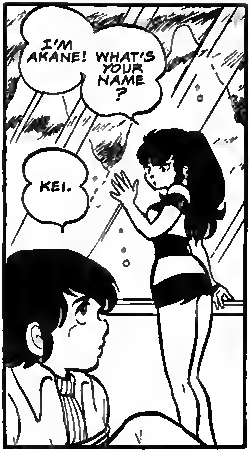
UM... ER...
WE ARE ABDUCTING YOU!
NOT NOW, OKAY?
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY PAPER ROUTE!
DAILY GLOBE
HE'S NOT SCARED!
WELL, WE'LL MAKE HIM SCARED!
THE LITTLE BRAT!
CHUNK
SSH
UNH!
M-MY PAPERS...
UNCONSCIOUS... BUT NOT SCARED!
A MICROSCOPIC ANTI-MATTER DEVICE...
...WITH THE POWER TO DESTROY THE EARTH!
IF THE HUMANS REFUSE TO SURRENDER...
KA-PLOOEY!!
WE SHALL PLANT A BOMB IN HIS BODY!
VRRR


I'LL SET IT TO EXPLODE IF IT'S REMOVED FROM HIS BODY! THERE WILL BE NOTHING THEY CAN DO!
GWOSHHHHH
HEH HEH HEH. OUR ACE IN THE HOLE FOR "OPERATION EARTH"!!
FOR THE PROSPERITY OF OUR PLANET!
FOOP
OPERATION COMPLETE!
"HUBBY'S AFFAIR DRIVES WIFE TO MURDER-SUICIDE"!
GIVE ME THAT! I SHALL TRANSMIT IT TO THE MOTHER SHIP!
BUMP
YIPES!!
KLAKETA KLAKETA
WE CAN USE IT TO WARN THE HUMANS!
NOW ALL WE NEED TO DO IS ERASE HIS MEMORY AND RELEASE HIM!

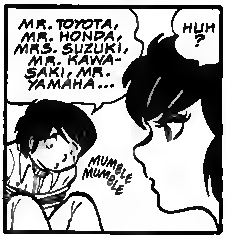

BA
BUMP!
WH-- WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!
WE'RE BEING PULLED TOWARD THE OCEAN!
WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL !!
WAAAA! HELP! HELP!!
UM.
I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY PAPER ROU--
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!!
WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN!
BLOOOG!!

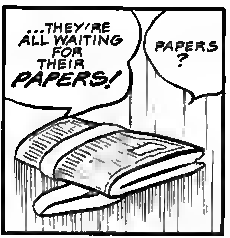
WHAT'S GOING ON, YOU ?!
GAK! AN UNDER-WATER CITY !!
??
BUBBLE
GGNN
WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE WE HERE--?

BUT I'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
IF YOU'LL JUST LET ME OUT OF HERE...
DO I LOOK LIKE I CAN LET YOU OUT OF HERE, YOU MORON?!
B-BUT MY PAPERS...
WA HA HA HAA! WELL, YOU'RE A SPIRITED BUNCH !!
WHISH
EEEE-YOW !!
WE ADMIRE ANY PRISONER WHO CAN KEEP HIS SPIRITS UP EVEN WHEN HE'S SO ABJECTLY HELPLESS!
SO WE WILL HAVE OUR FAVORITE PET TAKE CARE OF YOU!
NOW, SHUT UP !!

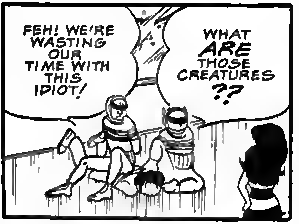

I'M AKANE!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KEI.

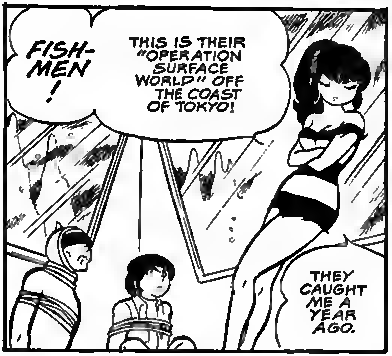
I'M NUMBER ONE!
I'M NUMBER TWO!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU!


MR. TOYOTA, MR. HONDA, MRS. SUZUKI, MR. KAWASAKI, MR. YAMAHA...
HUH?
MUMBLE MUMBLE

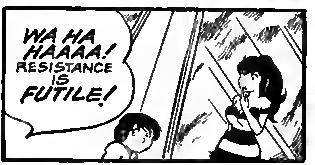

...THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR THEIR PAPERS!
PAPERS?

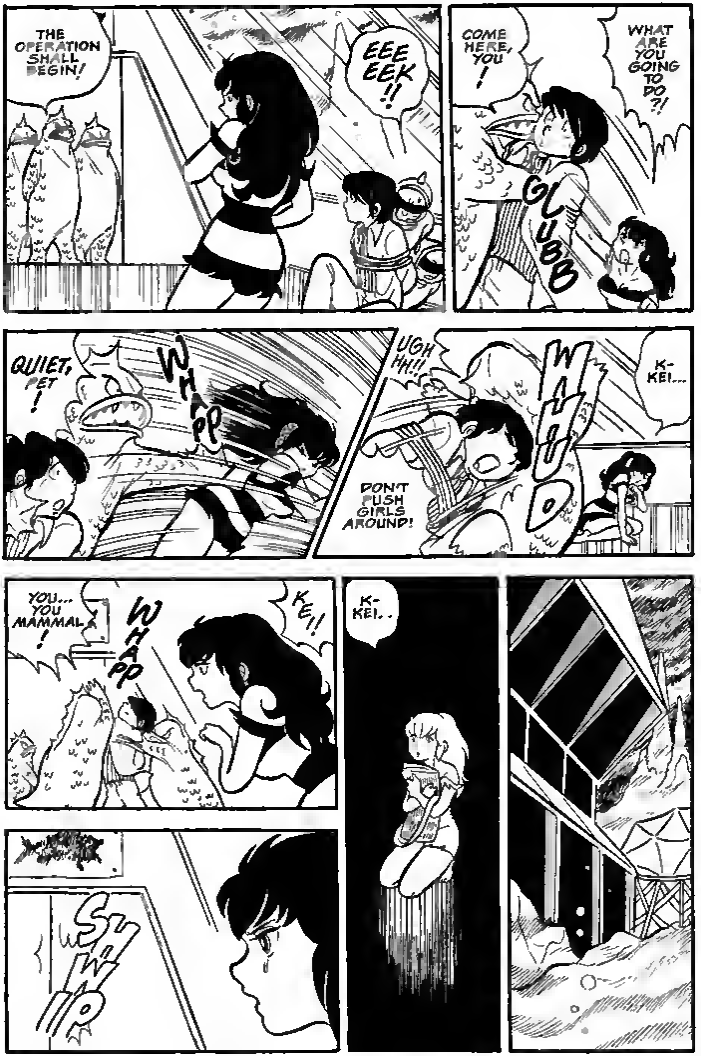
WILL YOU FORGET THE STUPID PAPERS?!
WHO CARES ABOUT PAPERS?!
BUT I HAVEN'T MADE ONE DELIVERY YET!
BOOT


FEH! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME WITH THIS IDIOT!
WHAT ARE THOSE CREATURES??

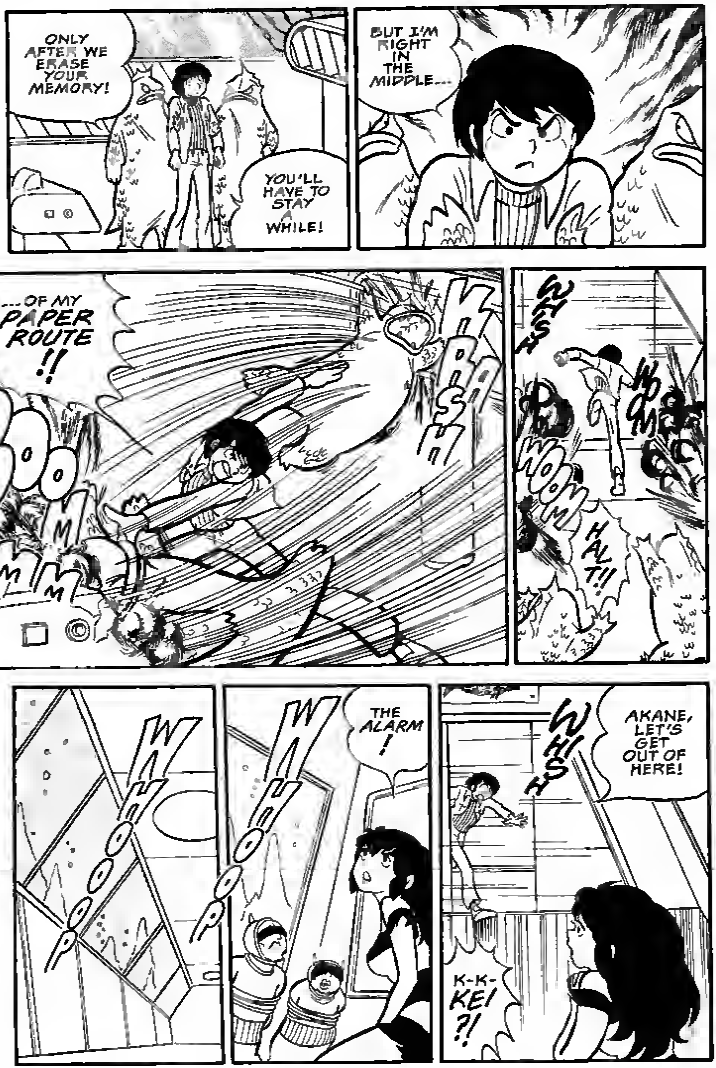

FISH-MEN!
THIS IS THEIR "OPERATION SURFACE WORLD" OFF THE COAST OF TOKYO!
THEY CAUGHT ME A YEAR AGO.

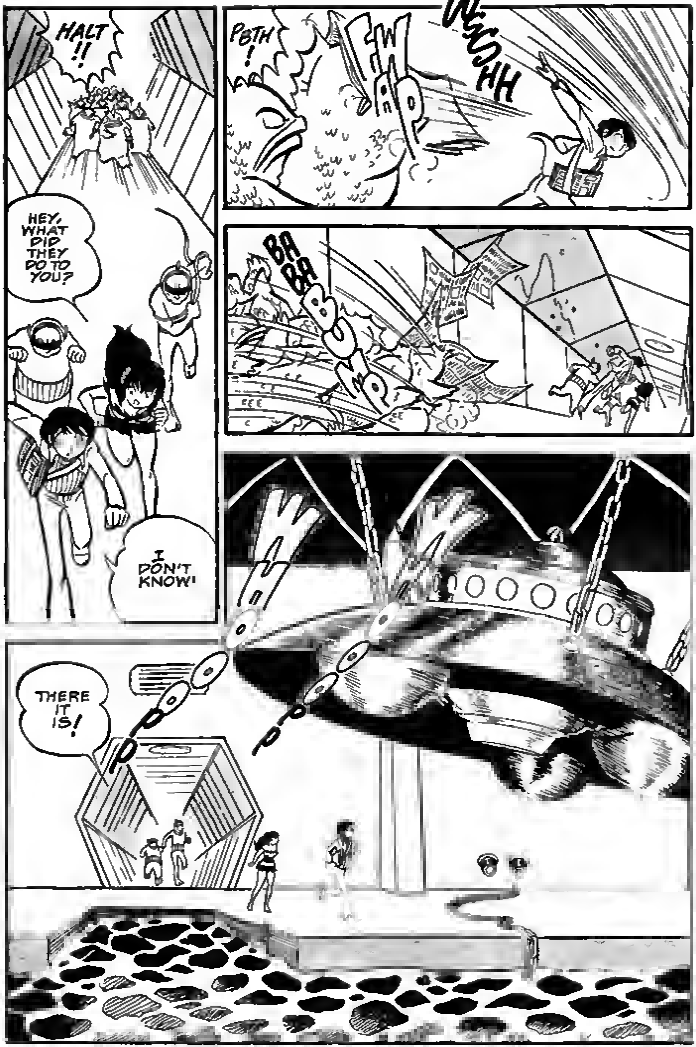
LET'S ESCAPE TOGETHER!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND EASY!

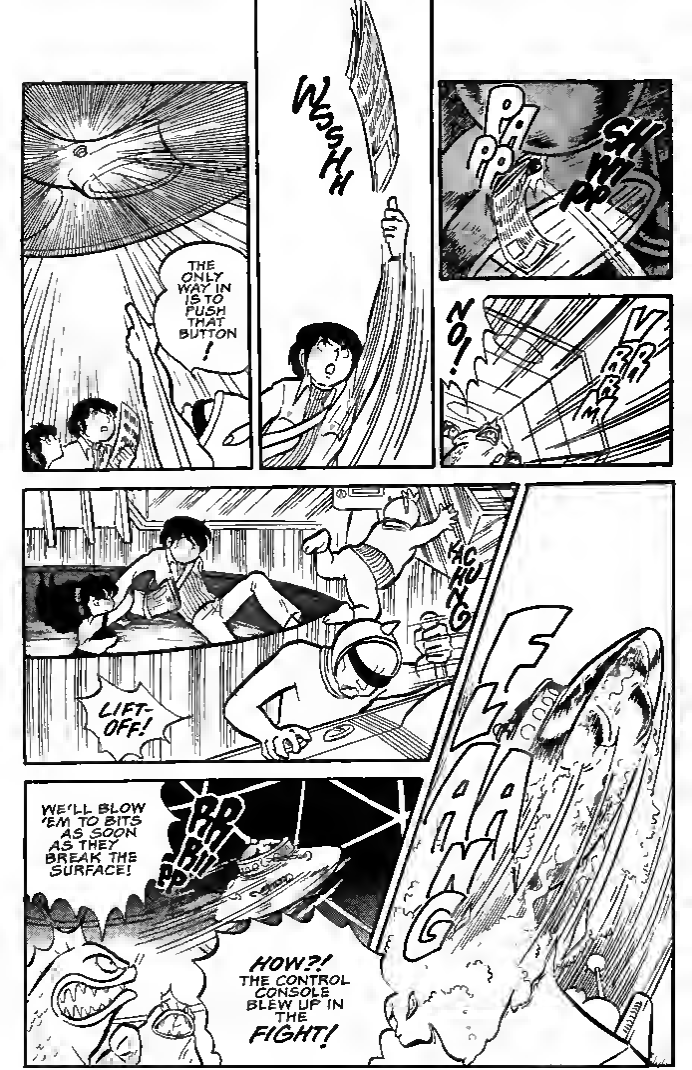

WA HA HAAAA! RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!


THE OPERATION SHALL BEGIN!
EEE EEK!!
COME HERE, YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
GLUB
QUIET, PET!
WHAPP
UGH HH!!
WHUD
K-KEI...
DON'T PUSH GIRLS AROUND!
YOU... YOU MAMMAL!
WHAPP
KE!!
K-KEI..
SWIP

A SMALL SACRIFICE FOR OUR CITY'S EXPANSION!
WITH THIS MICROSCOPIC ATMOSPHERIC EXPLOSIVE WE CAN DESTROY THE SURFACE WORLD'S AIR!
IF THE HUMANS RESIST US, THIS IS THE PRICE THEY'LL PAY!
FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE FISH-MEN!
SET IT SO THAT IT WILL EXPLODE IF IT'S TAKEN OUT!
IT IS DONE!
TUG
UMM... CAN I GO HOME NOW?

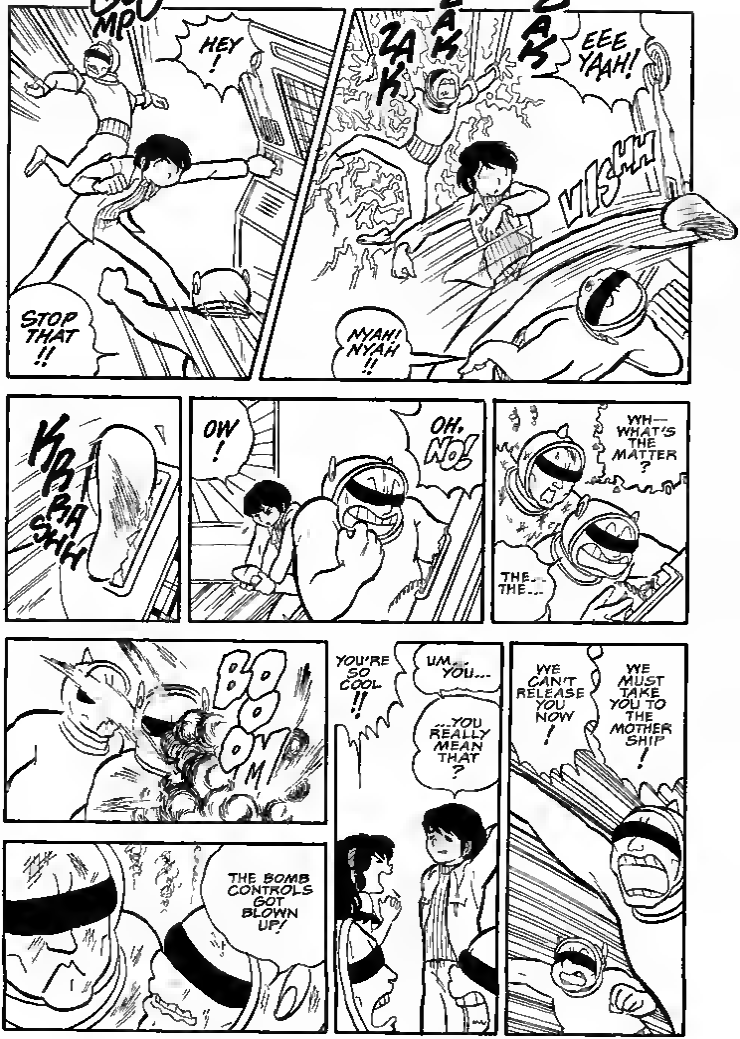

ONLY AFTER WE ERASE YOUR MEMORY!
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY A WHILE!
BUT I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE....
...OF MY PAPER ROUTE!!
BASH
OOOMMM
WHISH
WOOM
HA!!
WHISH
AKANE, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
K-K-KE!?!
THE ALARM!
WAAOOOOP

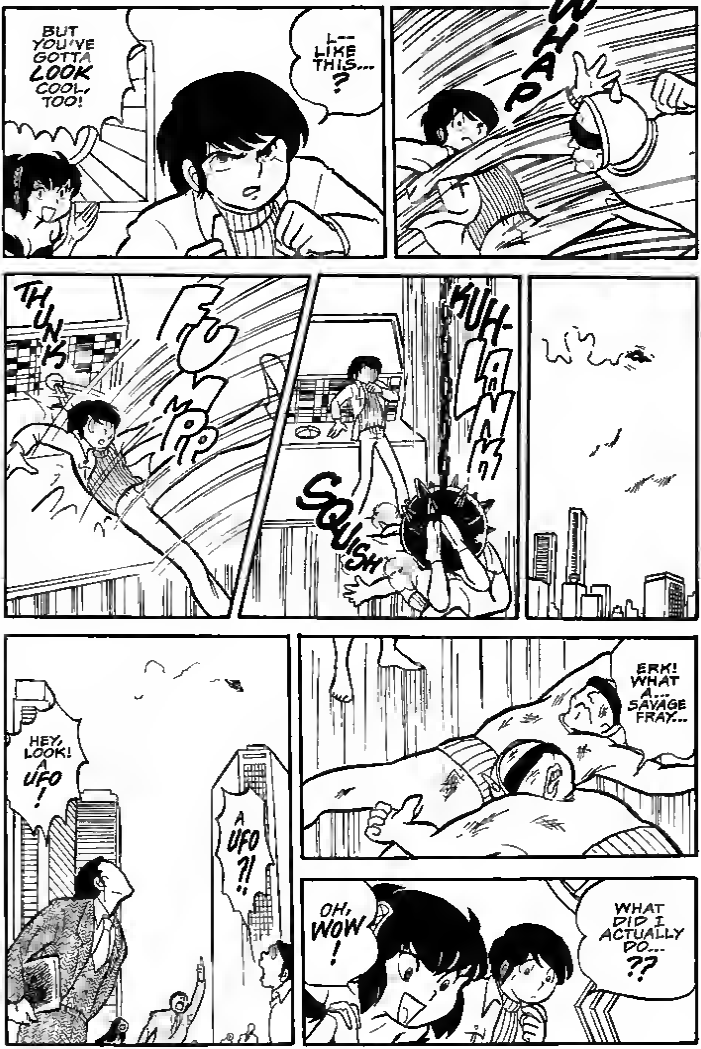

HALT !!
HEY, WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW!
PETH !
WHOOSH
BA BA BA
THERE IT IS!


WSSHH
THE ONLY WAY IN IS TO PUSH THAT BUTTON!
PA PP
SH PP
NO!
VRRR RM
KACHUNG
LIFT-OFF!
FLANG
WE'LL BLOW 'EM TO BITS AS SOON AS THEY BREAK THE SURFACE!
BP BP PP
HOW?! THE CONTROL CONSOLE BLEW UP IN THE FIGHT!

BLUB
UBLE
BLE
THIS... IS A FLYING SAUCER...
THAT'S RIGHT! WE ARE ALIEN INVADERS! ARE YOU TERRIFIED?
NO WONDER YOU GOT CAUGHT, RIDING IN THIS STUPID THING!
HEY, I SAID WE'RE ALIENS! YOU SHOULD BE AWE-STRUCK!
FOOEY. AFTER THE FISHMEN--I'M SUPPOSED TO GET EXCITED ABOUT A COUPLE OF GEEKS LIKE YOU?
THEY'RE ALL BRATS!
HAVE YOU HUMANS NO INTELLECT AT ALL--?!
BLOOM

WE SHOULD BE SAFE NOW!
GET READY, YOU TWO!
KUH!
FIRST... YOU! WE'LL ERASE YOUR MEMORY!
HEY, IF NOT FOR HIM YOU'D STILL BE TIED UP!
FOR YOU WE HAVE NO NEED! WE'LL TOSS YOU IN THE OCEAN!
PREPARE TO DIE!
NO!
WHUD
LITTLE FOOL!!
KRAK
NYAH! NYAH! MISSED ME!
VISH
KLIKK


GLOMP
HEY!
STOP THAT!!
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
EEE YAAH!
VISH
NYAH! NYAH!!
KBBH SHH
OW!
OH, NO!
WH—WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE-THE...
BOOOM
THE BOMB CONTROLS GOT BLOWN UP!
YOU'RE SO COOL!!
UM... YOU...
...YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?
WE CAN'T RELEASE YOU NOW!
WE MUST TAKE YOU TO THE MOTHER SHIP!


BUT YOU'VE GOTTA LOOK COOL, TOO!
I--LIKE THIS...?
WHOA
THUNK
FUMPP
KUH-LANNG
SQUISH
HEY, LOOK! A UFO!
A UFO?!
ERK! WHAT A... SAVAGE FRAY...
OH, WOW!
WHAT DID I ACTUALLY DO...??

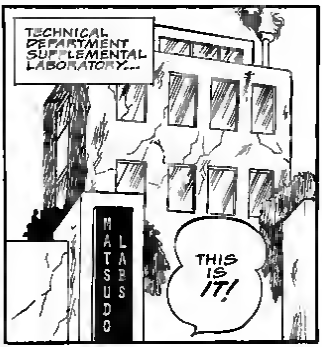
YOU BEAT THE ALIENS, STUPID!
YOU'RE SO COOL!!
SQUISH
BE-BUMP BE-BUMP
KA-CHUNK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
IT'S COMING DOWN!!
UFO LANDS IN TOKYO!
NO DAMAGE TO NEARBY HOMES AS SAUCER CRASHES IN PARK
ALIENS!
HEY, CHECK OUT THIS LETTER!
BZZZ BZZ BZZ BZZZ

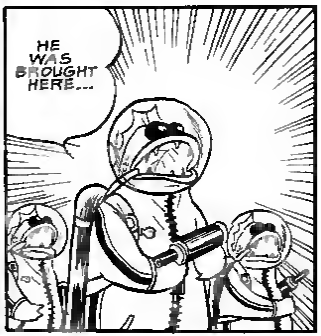
FROM OUR READERS

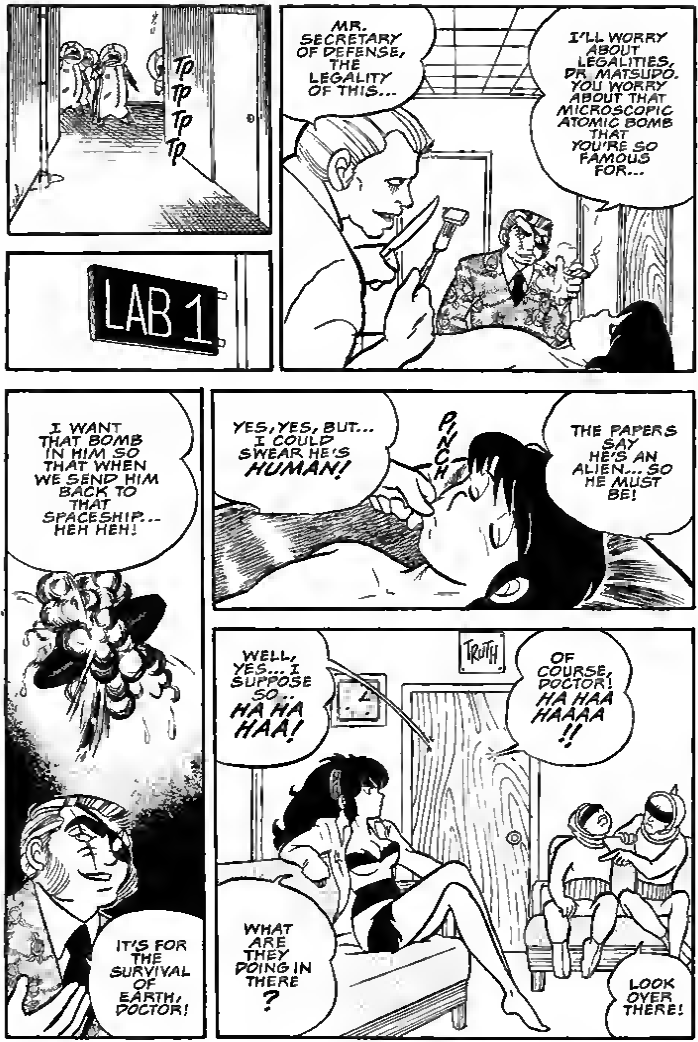
WE WELCOME YOUR OPINION !!

Humans have built spaceships and advanced into space. But there are superior life-forms in space. We think you humans are conceited. We've hidden a bomb somewhere. We'll set it off if you don't do as we say. Please respond.

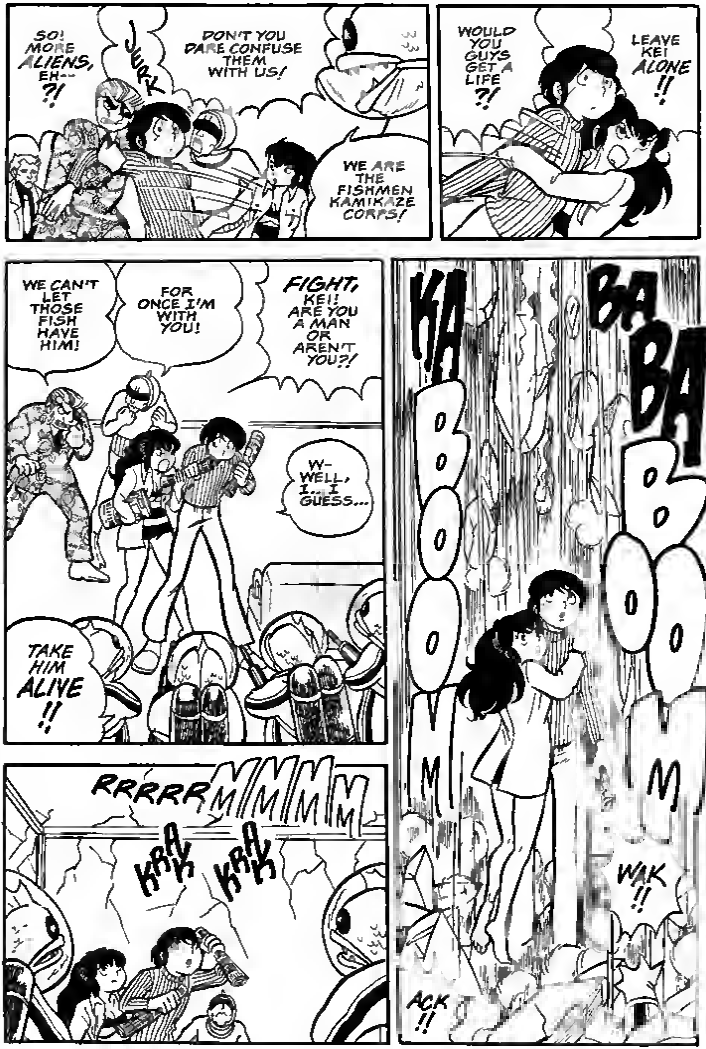
Sincerely--
The Aliens

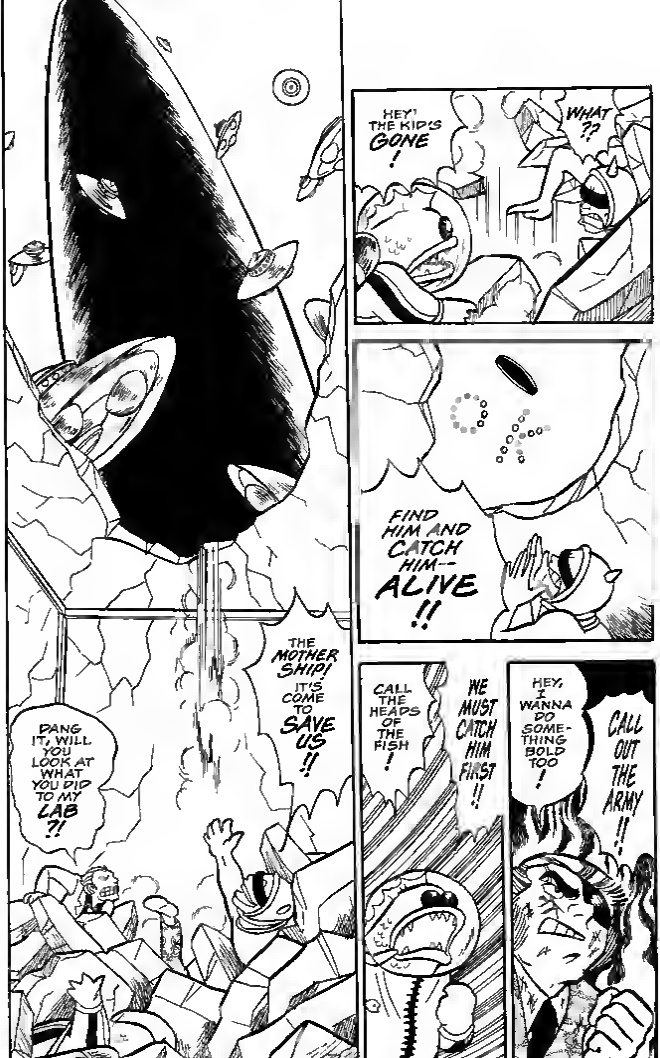





TP TP TP TP
LAB 1
MR. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, THE LEGALITY OF THIS...
I'LL WORRY ABOUT LEGALITIES, DR. MATSUDO. YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT MICROSCOPIC ATOMIC BOMB THAT YOU'RE SO FAMOUS FOR...
I WANT THAT BOMB IN HIM SO THAT WHEN WE SEND HIM BACK TO THAT SPACESHIP... HEH HEH!
IT'S FOR THE SURVIVAL OF EARTH, DOCTOR!
YES, YES, BUT... I COULD SWEAR HE'S HUMAN!
PINCH
THE PAPERS SAY HE'S AN ALIEN... SO HE MUST BE!
TRUTH
WELL, YES... I SUPPOSE SO... HA HA HAA!
OF COURSE, DOCTOR! HA HAA HAAAA !!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THERE ?
LOOK OVER THERE!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
CHK
TRUTH
NO, LOOK OVER THERE!
KEI, WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
HUH? UMM... ER...
YOU ARE ALL RELEASED! YOU MAY GO BACK TO YOUR SPACESHIP!
BUT WE'RE NOT ALIENS!
I HAVE TO DELIVER MY PAPERS!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE!!
BAM
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
HAND OVER THE KID TO US!


SO! MORE ALIENS, EH--?!
JERK
DON'T YOU DARE CONFUSE THEM WITH US!
WE ARE THE FISHMEN KAMIKAZE CORPS!
WOULD YOU GUYS GET A LIFE?!
LEAVE KEI ALONE!!
WE CAN'T LET THOSE FISH HAVE HIM!
FOR ONCE I'M WITH YOU!
FIGHT, KEI! ARE YOU A MAN OR AREN'T YOU?!
W-WELL, I... I GUESS...
TAKE HIM ALIVE!!
KA
BOOOM
BA
BA
BOOOM
WAK!!
ACK!!
RRRRRMMMMMM
KRAK
KRAK


HEY! THE KID'S GONE!
WHAT??
FIND HIM AND CATCH HIM-- ALIVE!!
HEY, I WANNA DO SOMETHING BOLD TOO!
CALL OUT THE ARMY!!
WE MUST CATCH HIM FIRST!!
CALL THE HEADS OF THE FISH!
THE MOTHER SHIP! IT'S COME TO SAVE US!!
DANG IT, WILL YOU LOOK AT WHAT YOU DID TO MY LAB?!

BROOOOM
WE ARE TOUGH!
WE ARE MEN!
BOOM
KA BOOOM
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HUH?
SSSS

WOOSH
YOU HIDE HERE!
I'M THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER!
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
AKANE, I...
...I HAVE TO DELIVER THOSE PAPERS!
KEI!
KABOOOM
BE CAREFUL! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
GET THAT KID!
VROOOOOM
STEP ASIDE
HEY, THERE'S THE GIRL!

BOOOM
BOOM
STEP ASIDE
VRROARRRR
BOOM
WHERE DID THE KID GO? TALK, YOU!
TRY AND MAKE ME!
TALK OR WE'LL BLOW HIM UP!!
HUH??
"BLOW HIM UP"?
DID YOU JUST SAY, "BLOW HIM UP"?
HE SAID IT!
YOU SAID IT, TOO!

A-WA HA HA HA HAA!
Y-YOU MEAN WE ALL...?
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
WA HA HA HA!
....
....
WAIT A MINUTE...
...DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME...
...YOU ALL PUT A BOMB IN HIM?!
KE!!
I HAVE TO HURRY!
I CAN STILL MAKE IT FOR THE EVENING EDITION!
BOOM
KA
BOOOOMMMMMM

STOP THE ATTACK !!
IF ONE EXPLODES, IT'LL TRIGGER THE REST !!
THERE'LL BE A FUSION OF DESTRUCTIVE ENERGIES, RESULTING IN...
$E(x,y,z) = \phi m\{1-(v/c)^2\}^{1/2} \iiint_v dx\,dy\,dz$
$= 0$
AND THEN... OH, MY GRACIOUS !
SAY IT IN ENGLISH !!
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN ?!?
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WILL BE DESTROYED !!
DUG
TOK TOK TOK TOK
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR MESSING WITH A HUMAN LIFE!
YOU THINK KEI'S A GUINEA PIG ?!
WELL... HA HA... AT LEAST OUR CONTROL DEVICE IS BROKEN, SO OUR BOMB WON'T BLOW UP BY ITSELF!
YOU'RE KIDDING ! OURS IS BROKEN, TOO !
YOURS IS REMOTE CONTROLLED TOO, ISN'T IT, DR. MATSUDO?
WELL.... YES...

THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
WA HA HA HA
ALL LIVING THINGS CAN BE FRIENDS!
LET'S FORGET OUR DIFFERENCES AND WORK TOGETHER!
WUMP
...EXCEPT IT'LL BLOW UP IF HE DIES.
I SET IT UP SO THAT IT WILL DETONATE IF HIS HEART STOPS.
TH-THEN IF ANYTHING KILLS THAT IDIOT...
...IT KILLS THE UNIVERSE.
AFTER HIM! PROTECT THAT KID!
HUFF HUFF
MAN... ALL THIS RUNNING...
...MAKES MY CHEST HURT!
HUFF HUFF HUFF

GUAAA!!
ZOOM
BAABUMMMP
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
YOU ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK!
OOOH, MY HEART!
KEI, YOU HAVE--
DON'T TELL HIM! HE'LL DIE OF SHOCK!
YOUNG MAN, COME WITH ME!
WILL YOU QUIT BOTHERING ME--!?!
DELIVERING NEWS-PAPERS IS MY LIFE!
OOOOOOO!

WHY ARE THEY SO HELPFUL ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I GUESS THEY LIVE TO DELIVER NEWSPAPERS TOO!
SQUAD NUMBER THREE! HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE SECOND BLOCK ON HIS PAPER ROUTE!
BLOCK OFF THE STREET! DON'T LET ONE CAT STRAY INSIDE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU WON'T TRIP, WILL YOU ??
GOODWILL
UNITY
FRIEND-SHIP
THOSE SELFISH ALIENS !!
END

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

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A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC RUMIKO TAKAHASHI SHORT STORIES

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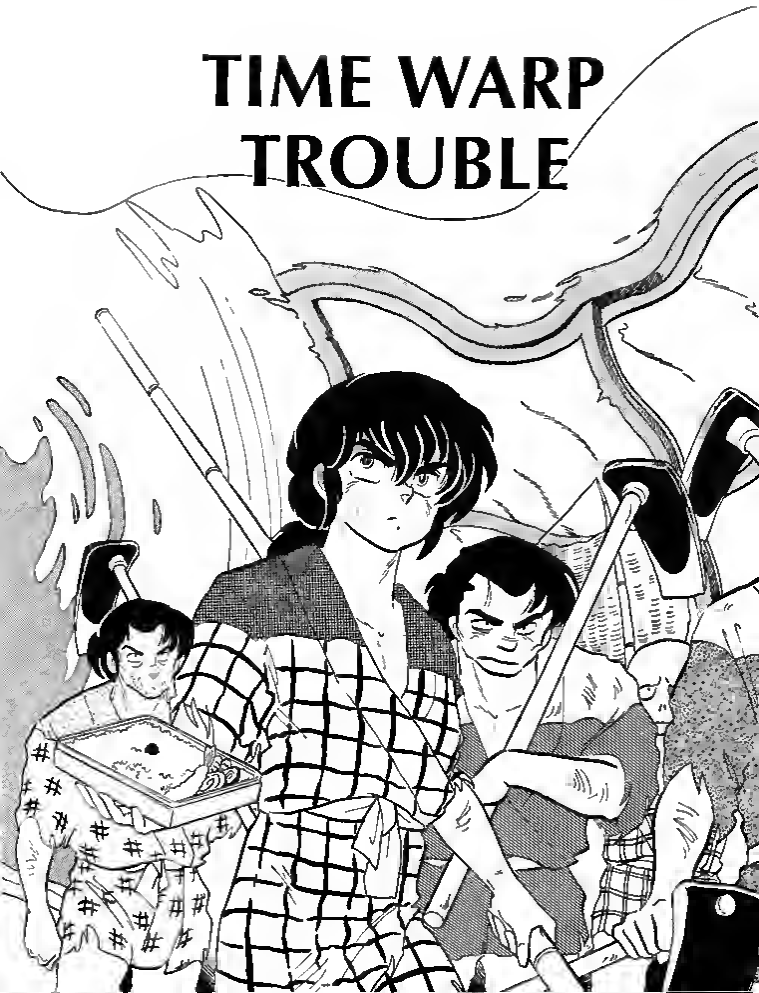
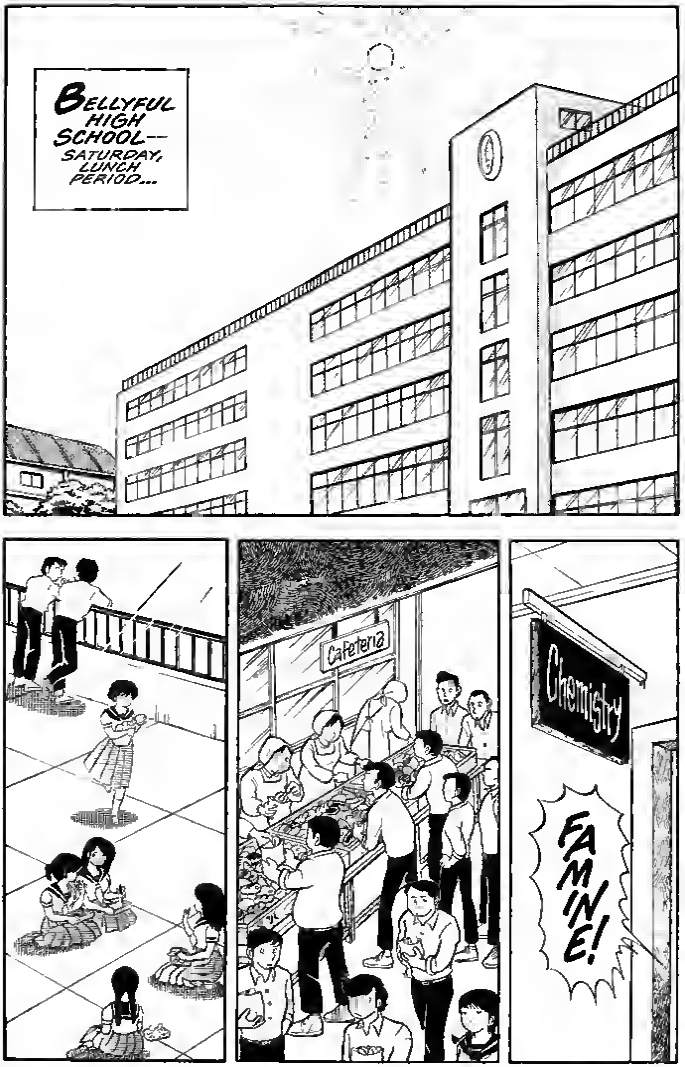
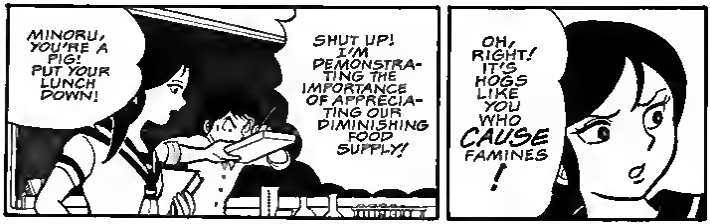
TIME WARP TROUBLE

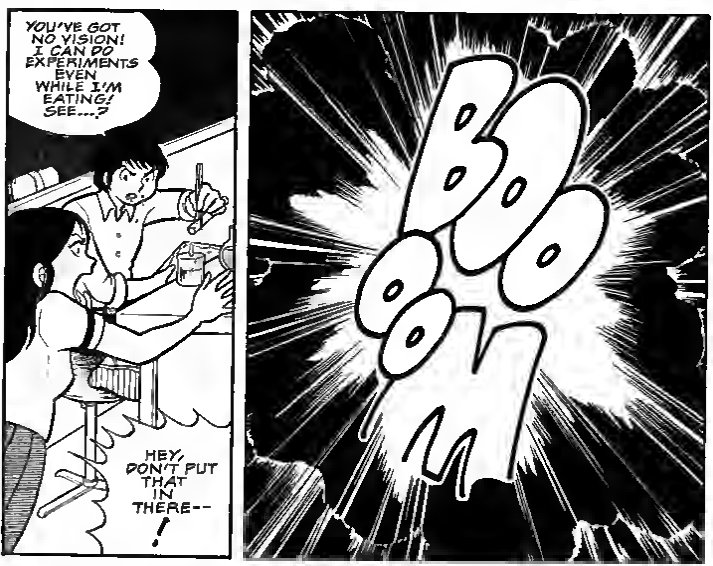



BELLYFUL HIGH SCHOOL— SATURDAY, LUNCH PERIOD...
Cafeteria
Chemistry
FAMINE!

WAKE UP, PEOPLE!
WITHIN THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS, THIS COUNTRY WILL FACE AN AGRICULTURAL CRISIS!
IN PREPARATION, IT IS OUR DUTY AS THE CHEMISTRY CLUB TO DEVELOP FERMENTATION TECHNOLOGY, IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT'S HE IN SUCH A RUSH ABOUT THIS TIME?
OH, YOU KNOW... IN HISTORY CLASS WE TALKED ABOUT FAMINES...
...AND THEN THE TEACHER SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SOMETHING WRONG WITH OUR GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT POLICIES...OR SOMETHING...

IMPROVING FERMENTATION TECHNIQUES TO INCREASE THE ABSORPTION OF NUTRIENTS WILL HAVE THE SAME IMPACT ON FAMINE AS INCREASING THE FOOD SUPPLY!
HE GETS KINDA WORKED UP SOMETIMES, HUH?
YEAH, LIKE EVERY OTHER DAY!


MINORU, YOU'RE A PIG! PUT YOUR LUNCH DOWN!
SHUT UP! I'M DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF APPRECIATING OUR DIMINISHING FOOD SUPPLY!
OH, RIGHT! IT'S HOGS LIKE YOU WHO CAUSE FAMINES!


YOU'VE GOT NO VISION! I CAN DO EXPERIMENTS EVEN WHILE I'M EATING! SEE...?
HEY, DON'T PUT THAT IN THERE--!
BOOOOM

AUGH! MY EYES!
KOFF! KOFF!
YOU MORON!
FEH! I'M NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE EXPLOSION RUIN MY LUNCH!
!?
PETITION
MY GOD!!
WH-WH-WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?!
PETITION

S-SOMETHING... SMELLS... GOOD!
IT'S FOOD! FOOD!!
FEED US
WAR
HEY!
WHAK
MY LUNCH!
ON-WARD, MEN!
ON-WARD!!
GIVE MY LUNCH BACK, THIEF!
GYAH!!
HELP ME! HELP ME!!
KaDOOM

SO HE GOES.
VVRRROOOOOM
FOOD !!
YOW !!
AAAAA!
Cafeteria
BREAD
FOOD !!
EEEEEK!!

LUNCH THIEF! LUNCH THIEF!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, MINORU!
BREAD-NAPPERS !!
WHO ARE YOU ?!
THE DEFEND-ERS OF UENO VILLAGE!
OH, FOOD! FOOD !!
HELP!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE-- ?!
IT'S THE CHEM CLUB... AT LEAST I THINK SO!
I NEVER FIGURED YOU GEEKS TO JOIN THE DRAMA CLUB!
THIS ISN'T A PLAY!
WE HEAR AN EXPLOSION... THE LAB'S EMPTY WHEN WE GET THERE...
...AND YOU'RE OUT HERE MAKING SAMURAI MOVIES?!
YOU'D BETTER HAVE AN EXPLANA-TION, MINORU!
IF YOU WANT ANSWERS, ASK ME!
GAAAK! EVERYBODY TO THE FACULTY ROOM!
FACULTY ROOM
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE CHEM CLUB STARTED A RIOT!

NOW, WHO'S GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS ?!
STUDENT FILES
WE WERE PREPARING FOR AN AGRICULTURAL CRISIS...
THERE'S NOT A BLADE OF GRASS LEFT IN OUR VILLAGE...
AND BY DEVELOPING FERMENTATION CHEMISTRY...
EVERYONE WILL DIE UNLESS WE FIGHT... OR RIOT... OR SOMETHING...
THIS TRAGEDY MUST BE AVERTED !!
SO... IT'S A PLOT !!
WHAM
A SHORTAGE OF FOOD IS THE GREATEST PROBLEM HUMANITY FACES!
BUT WE HAVE THE WORLD'S WORST AGRICULTURAL POLICY!
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO CANNIBALISM !

BREATHE DEEPLY, SIR... AND LISTEN!
GRR!
WE HAVE NO MORE IDEA HOW THESE PEOPLE CAME HERE THAN YOU DO!
YOU KNOW, WHERE THERE'S FOOD... THERE'S MORE FOOD!
IT'S AS IF THE TENMEI FAMINE DIDN'T EXIST!
WHAT--?! THE TENMEI ERA FAMINE?!
THAT'S THE ONE SET OFF BY THE MT. ASAMA ERUPTION OF 17▯3...
...OUR BIGGEST FAMINE EVER.
IT REDUCED THE POPULATION OF JAPAN BY ▯20,000.
DON'T BE STUPID! HOW COULD PEOPLE FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BE HERE NOW?!
HEY! LOOK AT THOSE TWO! LOOK CLOSELY!
YEAH! THEY LOOK KIND OF ALIKE!
THEY'D LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE IF MINORU LOST WEIGHT AND TURNED HANDSOME!
HEY, WATCH IT--!

BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
HE MUST BE YOUR ANCESTOR!
MY GOD, EAT! EAT! IF YOU STARVE TO DEATH, I'LL NEVER BE BORN!
F-F-FOOD?!?
THAT DOES IT!!
KONKI
THE TENME! KAMINE?! ANCESTORS?! SPARE ME!!
BUT LOOK AT 'EM!
SO WHY ARE THEY HERE, HUH??
UM...
I'VE KEPT QUIET BECAUSE IT SEEMED TOO FANTASTIC...
BUT MAYBE THAT EXPLOSION TORE A RIFT IN THE TIME CONTINUUM--OPENED A HOLE INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION, AND THEY WERE SUCKED THROUGH!
MAKES SENSE TO ME.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE

OKAY, YEAH, YEAH...
...A HOLE IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION!
CALL THE POLICE !!
YOU SAID IT!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THIS MOB OF MOOCHING BUMS IN BAD KABUKI COSTUMES LOCKED UP, THAT'S WHAT!
ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY, BRANDISHING WEAPONS, DISTURBING THE PEACE, LARCENY, UNLAWFUL ENTRY, AND ASSAULT!
PLEASE, DON'T HAND US OVER! ANYTHING BUT THAT!
HEY, GET YOUR FILTHY PAWS OFF ME!
WAH!
I MUST TAKE THIS TO MY WIFE AND CHILDREN, WHO WAIT FOR ME, STARVING!
IS THAT MY PROBLEM?!
HOW CRUEL!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO THE POLICE!
THESE PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY!
AND HOW COULD A BUNCH OF HOMELESS PEOPLE JUST APPEAR LIKE THAT?!
AREN'T SCHOOLS SUPPOSED TO TEACH US VALUES?
QUIET!! DO YOU ALL WANT TO BE EXPELLED?!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY HEART AT ALL?!
HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUNGRY?!?
FWAK
THIS'LL BE US IN FIFTY YEARS!
AW-RIGHT!
THEN YOU'LL KNOW THE STING OF HEART-LESSNESS!
WHUMP
OUR ANCESTORS SUFFERED SO WE COULD PROSPER!
YOU HAVE A SURPLUS! YOU CAN SPARE A LITTLE!

WE MUST PAY OUR DEBT TO THE FAMINE VICTIMS OF THE PAST BY GIVING SUCCOR TO THESE HUNGER-RACKED REFUGEES!
BLESS YOU! BLESS YOU!!
THERE ARE RULES AGAINST THIS.
WHAT A HERO!
WOW, MINORU! YOU ACTUALLY CAN MAKE SENSE!
NOW I KNOW IGNORANCE IS COURAGE.
HEY, WHO'S THE HERO HERE?!
OH, YOUNG FRIENDS...
HOW SWEET TO LEARN THAT THERE IS NOBILITY IN YOUR ERA...
THANK FATE FOR BRINGING US HERE!
NOW, BACK TO THE VILLAGE!

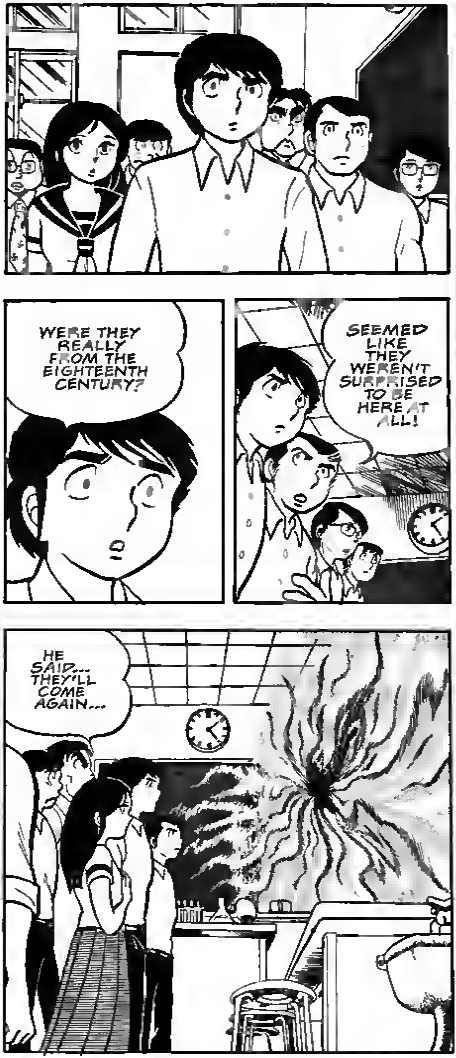
UM... HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?
THE WAY WE CAME!
YEAH... YEAH! TAKE US TO THIS "RIFT," BOYS!
BUT... BUT WHAT IF IT'S GONE?
IF THE HOLE IS ONLY A TEMPORARY PHENOMENON CAUSED BY THE BLAST...
Chemistry
EITHER YOU GO THROUGH A RIFT... OR YOU GO TO JAIL! AND NO MORE CHEM CLUB!
NEVER FEAR.
LOOK!
HUH?
AKK!

THERE REALLY IS A RIFT!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS---?!?
IT WASN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE!

FAREWELL, FOR NOW! BUT WE'LL BE BACK...

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?!
DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE WHOLE THING AGAIN?!

GOOD-BYE!


WERE THEY REALLY FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY?
SEEMED LIKE THEY WEREN'T SURPRISED TO BE HERE AT ALL!
HE SAID... THEY'LL COME AGAIN...
...THROUGH THIS RIFT...

MINORU'S A FINE YOUNG MAN.
HE'S YOUR ANCESTOR, AFTER ALL!
BUT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO DESTROYED THEIR AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS... FOR US!
THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CROSS THE RIFT MORE OFTEN...
...UNTIL THEY'VE PAID THEIR DEBT!
INDEED.

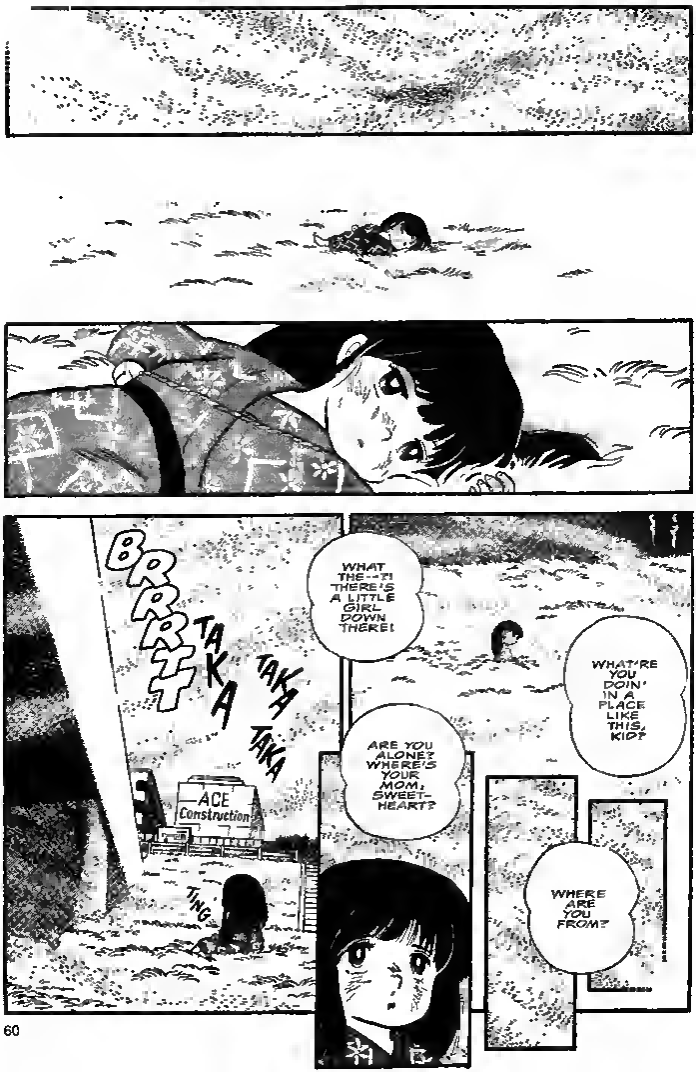
HOME AGAIN...
THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE "NEW TENMEI ERA"... 2053!
THE GROSS FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY RATE HAS DROPPED TO .01 PERCENT...
...AND ALL AVENUES FOR IMPORTATION HAVE COLLAPSED.
EVERYONE, REJOICE! WE'VE FOUND A WAY TO GET FOOD!
END

MANGAPROJECT.CJB.NET
EDITOR: ZLLEH
SCANNER: ICHIJO

WOOOSH
SWK
KRAK!
SHHH
BAAA

SUZU!
SUZU! ARE YOU IN THERE??
SNAP
SHHH!
FWWWWW
TNG
SHUKUMARU! HELP!
KRAK
FWOOSH
PAAA
SUZU!!
TNG
TNG

FIRE TRIPPER

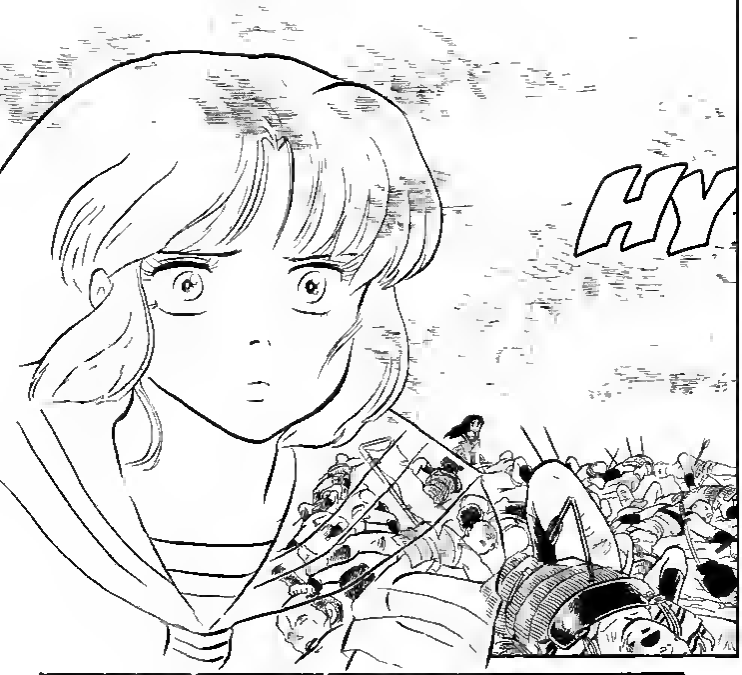

BRRRT
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
ACE Construction
TING
WHAT THE--?! THERE'S A LITTLE GIRL DOWN THERE!
ARE YOU ALONE? WHERE'S YOUR MOM, SWEETHEART?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, KID?
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

TWO
TWO
TWO
OOH!
CHECK IT OUT!
SHUHEI!
OH!
OOOOH!

SUZUKO!
LOOK! LOOK!
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING THOSE BOYS YOUR BELLY?
I HAD AN OPERATION FOR APPLE-CITIS!
NEAT, HUH?!
LET'S SEE.
THE DOCTOR SAID IT WAS ACUTE APPENDICITIS.
OH, I THINK YOU MEAN APPENDI-CITIS.
DID YOU CRY?
NO! I DIDN'T!
I NEVER CRY!
OKAY! I BELIEVE YOU!
LET'S GO HOME. YOU JUST GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AND SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING AROUND.
SO, LIKE, YOU CAME OUT JUST TO SHOW THEM YOUR SCAR? WAS IT SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS THEM?
YEAH! I HAD AN OPERATION FOR APPENDI-CITIS!
ISN'T THAT IMPRESS-IVE?
I'M AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT--

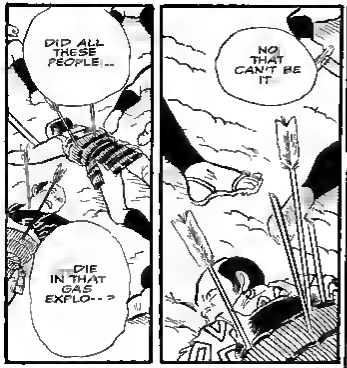
ON THAT FATEFUL DAY, I TOOK THE HAND OF MY NEIGHBOR'S KID, SHUHEI--
YOUR MOM MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW!
AH-- DON'T SWEAT IT!
THEN...
DID YOU KNOW I WENT IN AN AMBULANCE?
TING
HEY! THAT SMELL-- LIKE A GAS LEAK--
WHAT ?!

WAAOOOOOO
FUUUUUU
UH
WHA- WHAT HAPPENED--?
OH RIGHT... EXPLO-SION..
A GAS EXPLO-SION!
UH...


HY

UUUUUUUUU

WHA-WHAT THE--?
WHERE AM I?
EXCUSE ME, SIR!
AAH!
HE'S D-D-DEAD!


DID ALL THESE PEOPLE...
DIE IN THAT GAS EXPLO--?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT

BUT, WHERE AM I??
HH

HEH HEH HEH-- A WOMAN!
GIMME THEM LEGS!
EEEEEEEEE!!
RAAH!
SHAK SHAK
SHAK
HFF HFF HFF
YAH!
FAP

NO!
MOM!
HELP ME!
EEE-EEE-EEEE!
SHUNK
KASHING
SHUUUSH
GUK!
SHUNK

SPARK
SPARKK
KA
SHING
CLACK
EEEEEAAAHHH

NNUH! DON'T KILL ME! STOP!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
I JUST SAVED YOU! LET GO!
SHUKU-MARU!
WHO'S THE GIRL?
HMM... STRANGE CLOTHES. WHAT'S THIS, THEN?
WHAT?
FREAK!
BITCH! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
STOP IT!!
EEEEK!
H-HEY, SHUKUMARU! AREN'T THESE RED HORSE'S MEN?
YEAH.
DAMN! WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NOW? ISN'T HE GONNA COME AFTER US?
FOOL! WE'LL NEVER MAKE A LIVING BEING AFRAID OF THAT SCUM!
THEIR CART'S OVER THERE!
GOOD! LET'S STEAL IT AND HEAD ON HOME!

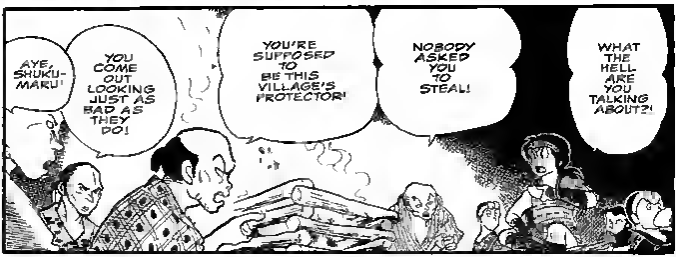
COME ON! HOW LONG YOU GONNA SIT THERE?
OI, SHUKU-MARU!
TING
YOU GONNA TAKE HER WITH YOU?
HELL, YES! I FOUND HER!
YAHOO! LOOK AT ALL THIS RICE!
HA! THEY MUSTIVE RAIDED A VILLAGE AGAIN!
BTAN BTAN
BTAN
THOSE BASTARDS! THEY DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HUMAN LIFE!
WHERE ARE WE...??
HUH?
WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE?
ON A CART, WHERE ELSE?
TING

WHAT TIME IS THIS?
YOU SOME KIND OF IDIOT? IT'S NIGHT TIME!
BE SERIOUS!
UH-- COULD YOU LET ME OFF? I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW.
BTAN
BTAN
AH!
KA-SHING
WUMPF
LOOK OUT!! YOU'LL GET HURT!
A BELL...
RRUMBLE

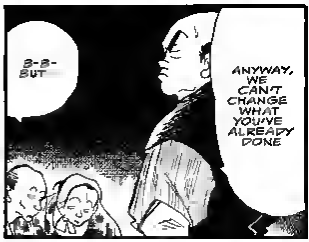
IT'S SHUKU-MARU!
SHUKUMARU'S BACK!
SKREEE
BTAN
....
THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY...? DURING THE CIVIL WAR?
SO YOU'VE MADE IT BACK
KASHING
HELLO, FATHER.
EY?
WHO'S THE GIRL?
OH.... YOU MEAN THIS GIRL?
AH...? HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED YOU YOUR NAME YET.
WHAT??

YOUR NAME, HAVEN'T YOU GOT ONE?
SU--
SUZUKO...
SHUKU-MARU!
AH, SUZU!
HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD GIRL?
I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU.
HERE YOU GO!
TING
TING TING TING
SO, THESE ARE THE REASONS--
WE'VE DECIDED TO MAKE A FENCE AROUND THE VILLAGE, STARTING TO-MORROW
ANY QUES-TIONS?

HEADMAN, ARE YOU SURE RED HORSE'S MEN WILL RAID THIS VILLAGE?
WITHOUT A DOUBT
AND ALL BECAUSE OF YOU! WHAT AN IDIOT, TAKING WHAT THOSE BANDITS HAD STOLEN!


AYE, SHUKU-MARU!
YOU COME OUT LOOKING JUST AS BAD AS THEY DO!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THIS VILLAGE'S PROTECTOR!
NOBODY ASKED YOU TO STEAL!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

YOU ALL LIVE COMFORTABLY BECAUSE OF WHAT WE'VE TAKEN!
YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THOSE THIEVING SCUM!


B-B-BUT
ANYWAY, WE CAN'T CHANGE WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE

WHO'S THAT GIRL?
SHUKUMARU BROUGHT HER HERE.
WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES ARE THOSE?
WAS IT SOME KIND OF TIME SLIP?
BE-CAUSE OF THE ENERGY RE-LEASED BY THAT GAS EXPLO-SION?
I WANT TO TAKE A BATH...
WHEN I WAKE UP...
I HOPE I'M BACK IN MY OWN TIME...
KTOON KTOON KTOON
KTOON KTOON
PTWEET
KTOON KTOON

TING TING TING
HELLO.
ARE YOU GOING TO BECOME MY BROTHER'S WIFE?
WHAT--?!
MY BROTHER SAID HE WAS GOING TO MAKE YOU HIS WIFE!
.....!
ARE YOU--SHUKU-MARU'S SISTER?
YEAH! MY NAME IS SUZU! I'M GOING TO BE SHUKUMARU'S WIFE, TOO!
I SEE YOU'RE UP!
OH--SHUKU-MARU!
OKAY, COME ON!
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU--

SPLOOSH
GUH!
SPLISH
SPLASH SPLASH
GUH--WHAT--STOP IT!!
UM HMM! WHEN YOUR FACE IS CLEAN, YOU'RE RATHER PRETTY.
NO, IT CAN'T BE. IS HE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT MARRYING ME??
NOW, LET'S GET YOU SOME NEW ATTIRE!
SHAAK
WE'VE GOT TONS OF CLOTHES IN HERE!
PICK OUT WHATEVER YOU LIKE!

HOW DID YOU GET SO MANY...??
WE DIDN'T STEAL THEM! WE JUST STRIPPED THEM OFF A FEW CORPSES.
CORPSES!?
NO!!
I CAN'T WEAR CLOTHES THAT WERE TAKEN OFF OF DEAD PEOPLE!
HOW COULD I--??
WHAA-AAAT?!?
WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS SHIRT...
I NEVER CRY!
OKAY! I BELIEVE YOU!
THIS SHIRT BELONGS TO SHU-HE!!
HOW DID YOU GET THIS?!
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT--?!?

A LITTLE BOY WAS WEARING THIS!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS...
I NEVER TOOK IT!
SHUHEI MUST'VE COME HERE WITH ME...
I HAVE TO FIND HIM!
SUZUKO, WAIT!
SHOOM
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING??
SHU-HE!!
WHAT THE HELL'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
I HAVE TO GO! SHUHEI IS AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
PLEASE! TAKE ME BACK TO WHERE YOU FOUND ME YESTERDAY!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE ALREADY TOOK EVERYTHING VALUABLE WE COULD FIND!
FINE! I'LL GO THERE BY MYSELF!
FOOL! DO YOU WANT THOSE BANDITS TO GET YOU?!
BUT HE'LL DIE IF WE DON'T FIND HIM SOON!

HYUUUUUUUUUUUU
CAN'T TAKE THIS...
THERE'S NO KID AROUND HERE!
HE MUST BE CLOSE BY... HE MUST...
LOOK! IT'S ALL GROWN MEN! THERE'S NO DEAD CHILDREN AROUND HERE!
SHUT UP! SHUHEI IS STILL ALIVE!!
SCARY.
SHU-HEI!
HEY, SUZUKO-- LET'S HAVE SOME LUNCH
NO, I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING RIGHT NOW
GRRROWL
HUNGER-- IT DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE! IT ATTACKS ANYWAY!
WHAT'S THIS...??
HAVEN'T YOU HAD MILLET BEFORE?

...!...
YUK! IT TASTES AWFUL!
GULP
HERE HAVE SOME
UH...
OH, NO... THIS IS LIKE AN INDIRECT KISS.
DON'T YOU WANT IT?
OKAY, I'M THIRSTY
!!
LIE DOWN!
PLEASE, DON'T BE SO ROUGH!
HUSH!
WHO IS HE?
RED HORSE'S MAN...

HE'S A FRIEND OF THE BANDITS WHO ATTACKED YOU YESTERDAY.
HE'S LOOKING FOR THEM.
THE BANDITS YOU KILLED?
CLOP CLOP CLOP
YEAH.
BEEP BEEP
KTOON KTOON
SHU-HEI!
AH! I'LL TAKE THIS ONE, TOO!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO SHUKU-MARU?
HE'S BEEN SPENDING ALL HIS TIME WITH THAT GIRL FOR FIVE DAYS NOW
THEY TAKE A LUNCH AND WALK AROUND THE BATTLE-FIELD TOGETHER.
HA HA-- WHAT A STRANGE COURT-SHIP!
O!, SHUKU-MARU! YOU HAVE FUN??
SHUT UP! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG!
HA HA
HA HA

WHAT?!
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T BEDDED THAT WENCH YET?!
YOU SOME KIND OF COWARD?
SHUT UP, YOU GUYS!
IT JUST ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME.
SUZUKO IS GOING CRAZY LOOKING FOR THAT KID
WHAT A STUPID EXCUSE!
I'LL BET YOU'RE SCARED OF WOMEN, AREN'T YOU??
WA HAHAHA
SHUT UP!!
I'M DIFFERENT!
YOU MAY RUN AROUND LIKE WILD DOGS. BUT I'M CIVILIZED. I'M NOT AN ANIMAL LIKE YOU GUYS!
HEY! WHERE YOU GOIN'?
SHUT UP!!
FAP
GLUG GLUG GLUG

BREEP BREEP
shunt
SHUNK
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? IT'S LATE.
SHUKU-MARU ---??
SUZU-KODOO...
W-WAIT!!
FWUMP

I'M GONNA SHLEEP HERE TONIGHT...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--?!
YOU'RE DRUNK! OH, MY GOD...
SO?! WHASS WRONG WITH THAT?
NO! STOP!
SHUT UP! DO WHAT I TELL YOU!
THUD
CRASH
GUD
THUD
ZZZ

OOOH- MY HEAD!
SUZUKO... HOW DID I END UP IN YOUR SHED LAST NIGHT? I MEAN, I WOKE UP AND...
ASK YOURSELF THAT QUESTION.
I'M ASKING YOU! I HAVE NO IDEA!
FOOL!
AW-- IT'S NO GOOD!
THIS HEAD- ACHE IS KILLING ME
SHHHHHH
SUZUKO, THIS WAY!
EH...?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
OH!

THE WATER'S SO CLEAR...
SPLOOSH
I WISH I COULD TAKE A BATH.
GO AHEAD. I WANT TO TAKE A REST.
.....
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
NO. I'LL PASS.
ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT YOU TRIED TO DO LAST NIGHT.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'D I DO?
ARE YOU SAYING I'M SOME KIND OF PERVERT??
.....
YOU PROMISE YOU WON'T WATCH?
WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR WORD?
I WON'T LOOK! I PROMISE!

AHH-HH-HHH
SHHHAA
SPLASH
HEY, SUZUKO!
DON'T LOOK!
WHAT A CYNICAL GIRL!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
SOME WHERE FAR AWAY.
WELL, THAT KID WHAT'S HIS NAME.

...IS HE YOUR SON?
WHAT!? ARE YOU SAYING I LOOK LIKE A MOTHER?!
A MOTHER! HUH?! NO, NOT AT ALL...
...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LOOK!
SPLASH
YOU LIED!!
WHAK
WAH!
HUFF! HUFF! YOU SCARED ME!
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN ARE YOU?!
HMF!

SHUKU-MARU! WELCOME HOME!
SUZU!
TING
TING TING TING
TING TING TING
SHAAAAAAA
THOK

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I CAN'T LEAVE THE VILLAGE? WHY??
RED HORSE AND HIS MEN ARE NEARBY. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
THAT ARROW WAS JUST A WARNING. THEY'LL START THEIR ATTACK SOON.
HEH-- THIS IS STARTING TO GET EXCITING!
GET YOUR WEAPONS, MEN!
SUZUKO! I'M SCARED!
SHU-HEI..
I WAS WONDERING HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHY? WHAT'S IT MATTER?
JUST TELL ME.
I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL--- SEVENTEEN.
SEVENTEEN! YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE SINGLE!
WH-WHAT? DO YOUR PEOPLE GET MARRIED SO YOUNG?
WHAT A SHAME. I'M SIXTEEN

WELL... MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I GUESS HAVING A WIFE ONE YEAR OLDER ISN'T TOO BAD.
WHA-- ??
OKAY! I'VE DECIDED THEN! WE'LL HAVE THE WEDDING AFTER I SETTLE THINGS WITH RED HORSE!
WAP
W-WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT-- ??
I DECIDED! I DECIDED!
WAS THAT...
...A PROPOSAL?!
IF I CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN...
...THEN SHUKUMARU IS THE ONLY PERSON I CAN DEPEND ON
BUT WHY DID HE SUDDENLY TALK ABOUT... A WEDDING ??
THE VILLAGE IS IN SUCH A CRISIS RIGHT NOW... WHY DID HE SAY IT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IS IT BECAUSE THIS IS SUCH A CRITICAL MOMENT?
DOES IT MEAN HE'S READY TO DIE?

TING TING
SUZU..
HUH ??
THAT'S A NICE BELL YOU HAVE
DO YOU WANT IT?
NO. I HAD A BELL EXACTLY LIKE IT.
TING
IT WAS A LITTLE DIRTIER ...
AND IT DIDN'T SOUND AS CLEAR AS THIS ONE.
TINK TINK
YOU'D HAVE FOUND OUT SOONER OR LATER, SO I GUESS WE MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU.
WE'RE NOT YOUR REAL PARENTS
AH HEH HEH-- I ALREADY GUESSED IT.
BECAUSE... BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE EVEN ONE SINGLE PHOTO OF ME AS A BABY...
SUZU-KO..
WHEN THEY FOUND YOU, THIS BELL WAS ATTACHED TO YOUR CLOTHING...

IT CAN'T BE!
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
NO, IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
BECAUSE-- IF WHAT I'M THINKING IS TRUE---
--SHUKU-MARU WOULD BE MY BROTHER!
YEAAHH!! RMMBR RRRR
WHAT'S GOING ON--?!
RRMMBRRRR

SHUCK
KRAKK
VYUUU
VYUUU
FWOOSH
AAH!
FIRE!!
VYUUU
VYUUU
THOK
THOK
THWACK
EEEEEEE
YEEEEE
FWOOSH
SUZU!!
WAAAAA

SUZU! HOLD ON!!
HIAH!
SHUKUMARU!!
SUZUKO!
SHCHCHX
SUZU!
SUZU'S IN-SIDE!!
WHAT?!
FWOOOOOOM
SUZU! ARE YOU IN THERE?!?
SHUKU-MARU!!
TING TING TING

KRAK
FWOOM
KRAAK!!
ZZAATT
TING TING TING
.....
KETHUD
HEH HEH HEH! HIDING WITH THE LITTLE GIRLIES, EH? WELL, IT'S OVER, FOOL!
SHUKU-MARU! COME OUT AND FIGHT, COWARD!
RED HORSE!!!
WHO'S HIDING?! I'VE COME TO KILL YOU, SCUM!!

NOW DIE!!
FWOOSH
YAHRAH
WAP
WHUDD
GRRRR--
EAT THIS!
CHUD
NO, YOU STINKING BASTARD--
CHAK
HA HA HA! IS THAT SUPPOSED TO HURT?!
CHUD
CHUD

THIS IS!!
FWOOOM
SHUKK
GUK!
HIIIYAAH!
WHOK
NO! STOP!

WOOF!!
FIRE -
A BURNING FLAME--
ZZZAAAPP
I'M ALWAYS SCARED WHENEVER I SEE FIRE--
HONK HONK
NOW I KNOW--IT WAS MY OWN POWER--

Mmmmmmmm
UNGH
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT WAS SNEAKING YOU UP HERE. YOU'RE HEAVY.
IT'S MY HOME.
WH-WHERE ARE WE--??
ARE YOU AWAKE NOW--?
I DON'T KNOW., HE'S PROBABLY DEAD
WHAT HAP-PENED TO RED HORSE?
AW, MOM! DON'T WORRY! I'M JUST GOING TO SEE MY FRIENDS! 'BYE!
NO SHUHEI! YOU JUST GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HER...
WHAT ABOUT SUZU?
SHU-HEI!!

HE'S JUST COME BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL--
THAT MEANS TODAY IS...
NO, SHUHEI! DON'T GO TO THE PLAYGROUND!
MOM'S STILL CALLING!
LET'S RUN!
I COULD COME BACK--
I HAVE TO SAVE SHUHEI!... AND IT HAS TO BE TODAY!
IT'S THREE O'CLOCK NOW--
EVEN IF I TREAT SHUKU-MAKU'S INJURIES, I'LL STILL HAVE TIME TO HELP SHUHEI.
I'M SURE THE EXPLOSION HAPPENS JUST BEFORE FIVE...
NO, PLEASE. I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR WOUNDS.
COME ON!
DON'T YOU KNOW I'M REALLY SUZU--??
I'M YOUR SISTER...

YOU HAVE SO MANY SCARS, OLD AND NEW.
OUCH !!
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
WHAT'S THIS--??
THIS SCAR IS SO MUCH NEATER THAN THE OTHERS
YEAH, IT'S A SCAR FROM THE APPLE-CITIS.
AP--
APPLE-CITIS!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SHUKU-MARU... ARE ARE YOU...
SHUHEI--??
HUH?

HEAD-MAN, WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S THE CLOTHES SHUKUMARU WAS WEARING WHEN I FOUND HIM... SO MANY YEARS AGO.
WHEN WE FELL...
HE MUST'VE BEEN THROWN MORE THAN TEN YEARS EARLIER!
ALL BY HIM-SELF...
OUCH!
I... I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY VILLAGE...
SUZUKO-- LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER!
WHAT--??

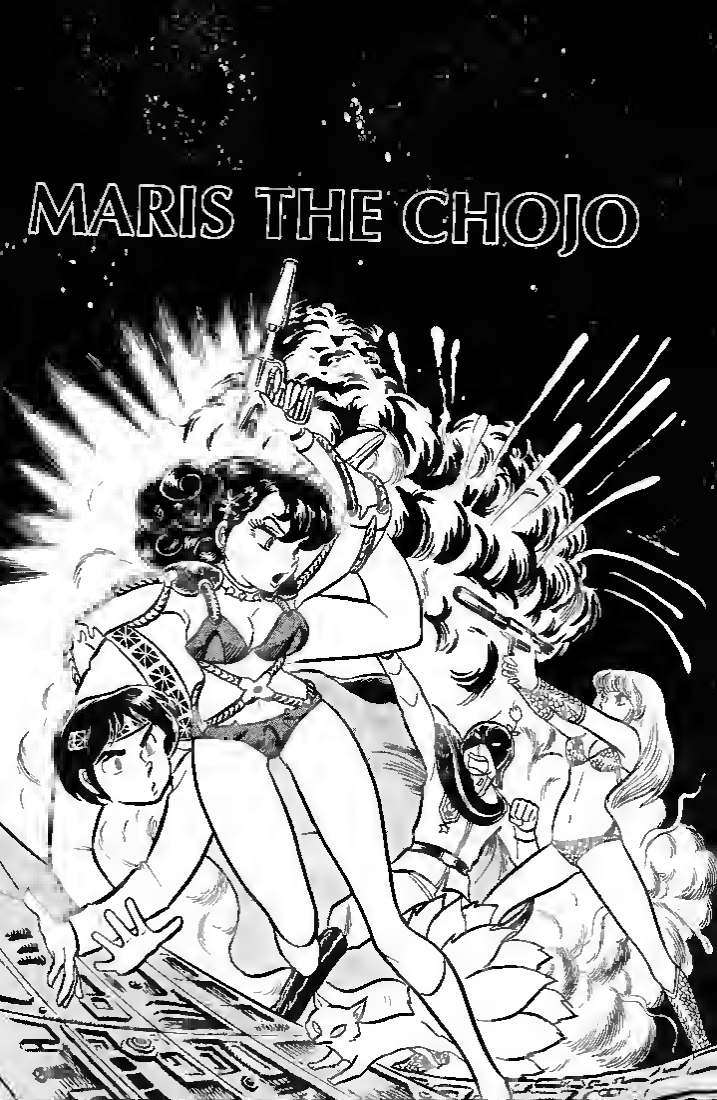
YOU WANT TO RETURN, NO MATTER WHAT--?
WHY?
THEY CAN'T MAKE IT WITHOUT ME.
BESIDES, I OWE MY FATHER A LOT...
HE FOUND ME AS A CHILD AND RAISED ME AS HIS OWN
WE CAN GO BACK THERE TODAY...
BUT..
SHUKUMARU, HASN'T YOUR LIFE BEEN HARD ON YOU?
HARD? NOT AT ALL I HAVE LOTS OF GOOD FRIENDS!
ARE YOU GOING TO PROTECT ME FOREVER--?
OF COURSE! FOREVER AND EVER
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANT THAN THAT...
I HAVE YOU NOW!
SHUKU MARU...

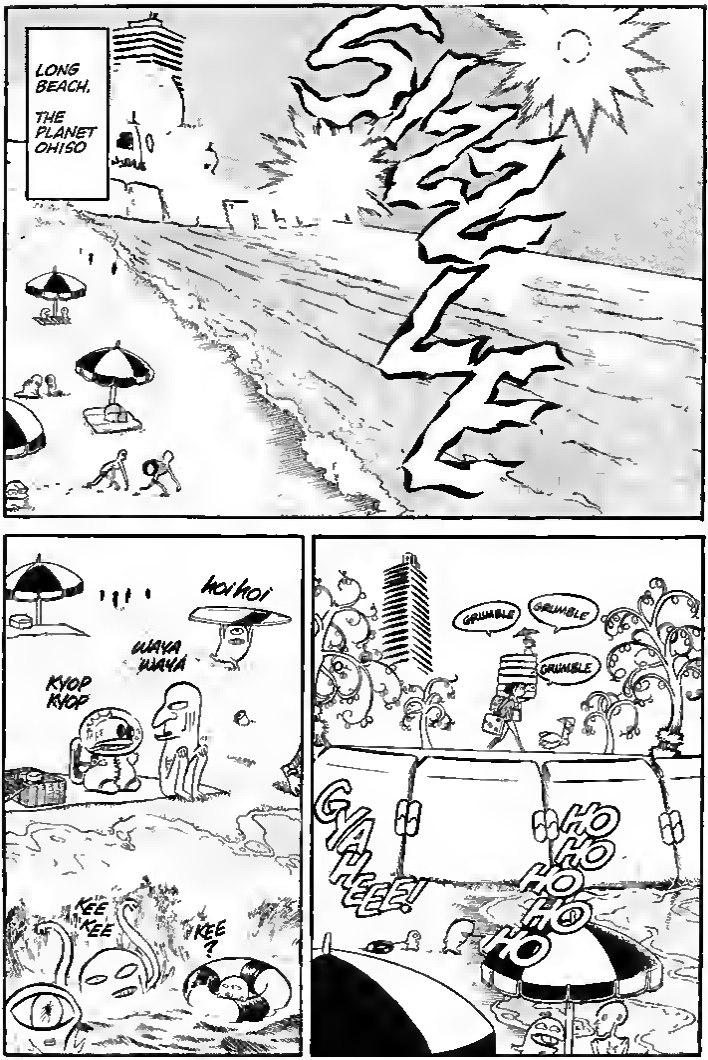
CAN WE REALLY GO HOME BY STANDING HERE LIKE THIS?
IT'LL HAPPEN SOON. VERY SOON.
SHUKUMARU, HOLD ME TIGHT. NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T LET GO.
THIS TIME, TOGETHER FOR SURE..
TING
TING

YOUR MOM MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW.
AW-- DON'T SWEAT IT!
SUZUKO!

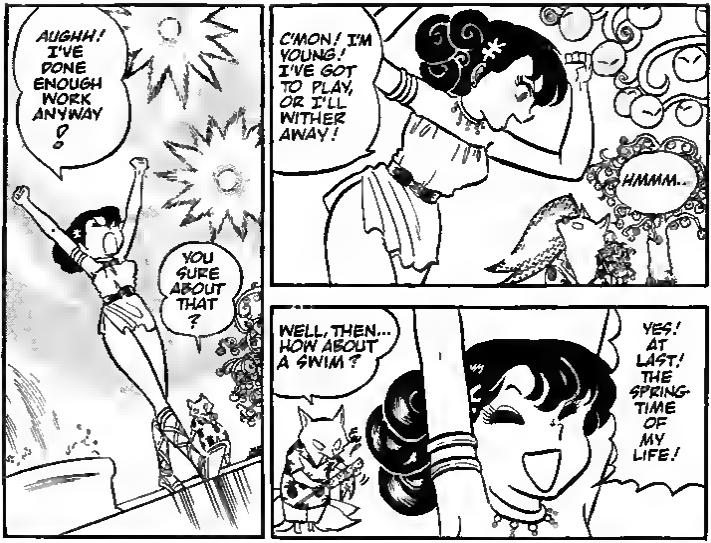
TEN DAYS HAVE PASSED, AND STILL NO SIGN...
SHUKUMARU AND SUZU... WHERE COULD THEY BE?
KTOON KTOON
HUH!
HEY!
HYUUUUUUUUU
HEAD-MAN... LOOK!
THEY'RE ALIVE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SHUKUMARU! WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?!
NEVER MIND! WE'VE GOT A WEDDING TO ATTEND TO!!
The END

MARIS THE CHOJO

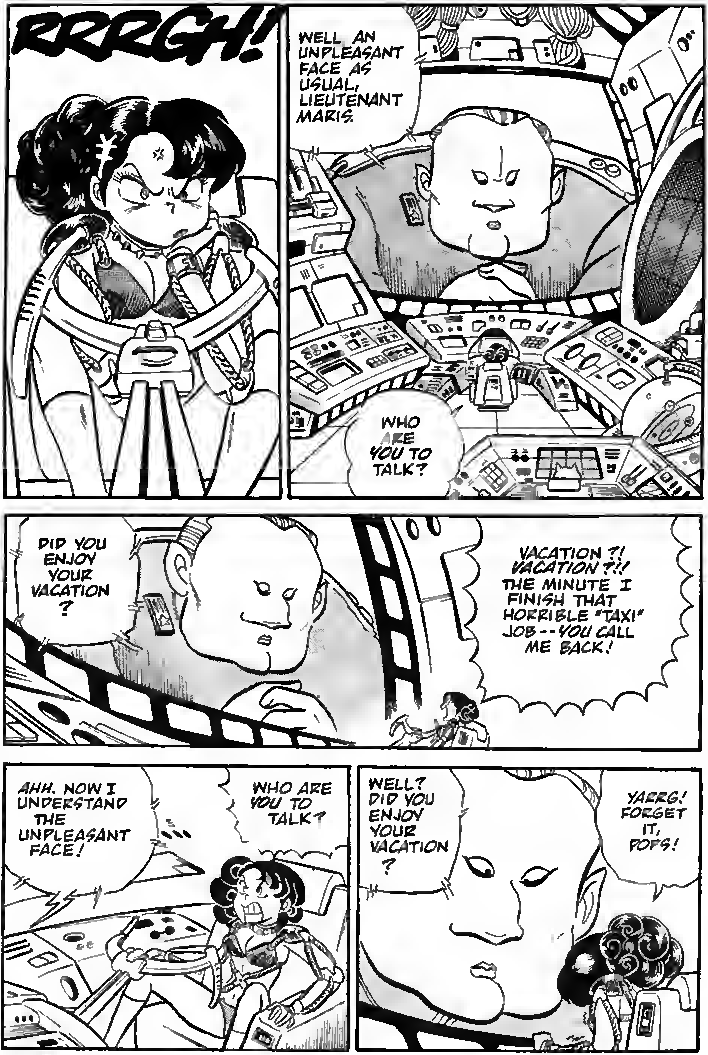


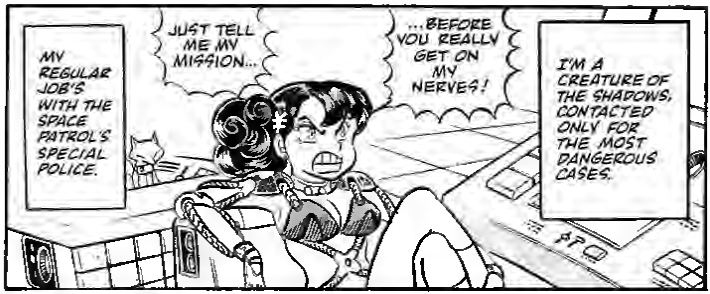

LONG BEACH, THE PLANET OH!SO
SIZZLE
HOI HOI
UUAYA UUAYA
KYOP KYOP
KEE KEE
KEE?
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GYAHEEE!
HO HO HO HO HO

MY NAME'S MARIS. AND THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE MY VACATION
FWIP FWIP
JEEZ, IT'S HOT!
GRUMBLE
HUMAN TAXI
QUIT GRUMBLING! PEOPLE WILL THINK I'M AN IDIOT FOR HANGING AROUND YOU.
GRUM BLE
GRUM BLE
AND THIS IS MY PARTNER, MURPHY.
Y'SEE, I BROKE A LITTLE SOMETHING ON MY REGULAR JOB, AND I HAVE TO MAKE SOME MONEY TO PAY FOR IT.
PANT
PANT
YOU CALL THREE ROCKETS "A LITTLE SOMETHING"?
EXPENSIVE?! A REGULAR TAXI WOULD COST TWICE THIS MUCH!!
WISEST NOT TO MAKE HER ANGRY, TOURIST SIR.
THEY ARE MUCH VIOLENT ON HER PLANET THANATOS
THAT'S FOR SURE!
MAKE ME MAD AND I MIGHT FORGET MYSELF!!
WHOOK
SNAP
GOD THIS IS EMBARRASSING.


AUGHH! I'VE DONE ENOUGH WORK ANYWAY!
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
C'MON! I'M YOUNG! I'VE GOT TO PLAY, OR I'LL WITHER AWAY!
HMMM..
WELL, THEN... HOW ABOUT A SWIM?
YES! AT LAST! THE SPRING-TIME OF MY LIFE!

CHUG
CHUG
CHUG


RRRGH!
WELL AN UNPLEASANT FACE AS USUAL, LIEUTENANT MARIS.
WHO ARE YOU TO TALK?
DID YOU ENJOY YOUR VACATION ?
VACATION ?! VACATION ?!! THE MINUTE I FINISH THAT HORRIBLE "TAXI" JOB--YOU CALL ME BACK!
AHH. NOW I UNDERSTAND THE UNPLEASANT FACE!
WHO ARE YOU TO TALK?
WELL? DID YOU ENJOY YOUR VACATION ?
YARRG! FORGET IT, POPS!


MY REGULAR JOB'S WITH THE SPACE PATROL'S SPECIAL POLICE.
JUST TELL ME MY MISSION...
...BEFORE YOU REALLY GET ON MY NERVES!
I'M A CREATURE OF THE SHADOWS, CONTACTED ONLY FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS CASES.
APO

THE SON OF ONE OF THE LEADING POLITICIANS IN THE MILKY WAY FEDERATION HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED.
THE KIDNAPPERS ARE HOLED UP ON THE PLANET MOROI, A.K.A "FRAJYL" AND DEMAND A HUGE RANSOM.

HERE ARE PICTURES OF THE VICTIM, SENT BY THE KIDNAPPERS.
CLICK
WHAT?!

CLICK

CLICK

THESE... WERE TAKEN AFTER HE WAS KIDNAPPED?
YES INDEED
A GUTSY LAD, DON'T YOU THINK? GREAT COMPOSURE!
BUT THEN, HE'S NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING. HIS PARENTS ARE INCREDIBLY WEALTHY.
CLICK
"INCREDIBLY WEALTHY"?!
HIS NAME IS KOGANEMARU MATSUSHITA.
MATSUSHITA! THE BIGGEST QUADRILLIONAIRES IN THE GALAXY!
OH, KOGANEMARU! BE BRAVE!
I SHALL RESCUE YOU WITHOUT FAIL!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, MARI$?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR, MURPHY? THE SON OF AN ULTRA-RICH FAMILY!
I OWE YOU MY LIFE! PLEASE MARRY ME!
OH, I DO!!

AND ONCE I'VE MARRIED HIM... THEY CAN PAY OFF ALL MY DEBTS!
GOODBYE TO VACATION-TIME JOBS!
YES!
YES!
HMPH. SUCH AN IDEALIST.
THE DEBTS AREN'T MY FAULT ANYWAY. WHY DO THEY PUT ME IN ROCKETS MEANT FOR EARTHLINGS?
I'VE GOT SIX TIMES THE POWER OF ANY EARTHLING!
CLONG
JUST PAY FOR THOSE THREE SHIPS!
CLICK
GH!
FORCED TO WORK WITHOUT PAY... TO TAKE MISERABLE JOBS ON MY DAYS OFF...
SQUEAK SQUEAK
...TO WEAR THIS DEPRESSING "POWER-SUPPRESSION CAST" THE SPRINGTIME OF MY LIFE...
..IS DARKER THAN WINTER!
BOOM
:AHEM:
OH, COME ON! IT'S JUST A LITTLE CRACK!
BANG BANG

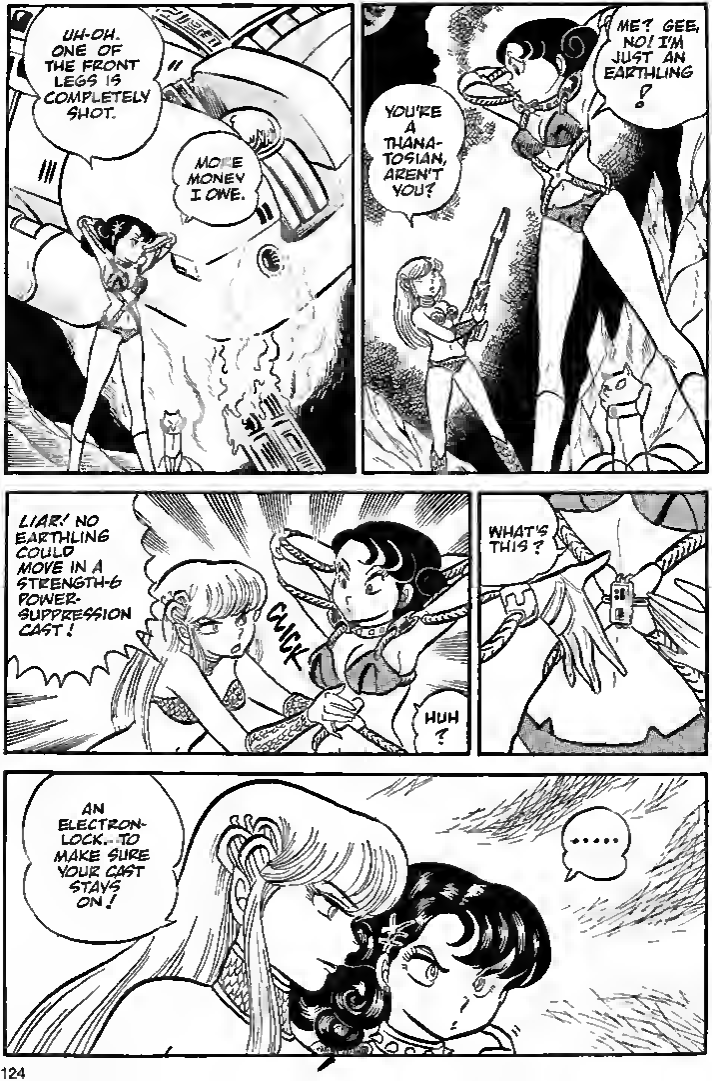
THIS IS THE END. IF I SUCCEED IN THIS MISSION, IT'S GOODBYE TO THIS TRAP!
WAIT FOR ME, MY PRINCE!
I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE REALLY NOT COMPATIBLE.
HUH?
DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS!
HEY!
DON'T PUSH!
I NEED A WELL-BRED WOMAN!
YOU WANT MY MONEY!
THANATOSIAN BARBARIAN!
YOU AREN'T MY TYPE!
WHY, YOU--
OO, I HATE YOUR SHAPE-CHANGING!
WHHHHPP
HEH HEH HEH!
SHOOM
BP

THE PLANET MOKOI, A.K.A. "FRAJYL"
ENEMY VESSEL APPROACHING !
PING
HOW CAN THIS BE, SUZY? I'M SURE YOUR RANSOM NOTE SPECIFIED THAT THEY WERE NOT TO NOTIFY THE POLICE !
HUMPH. IT'S PROBABLY THOSE "SPECIAL POLICE" STICKING THEIR NOSES IN !
GRRR GRRR
SPECIAL POLICE, EH?
HEH... INTERESTING..
SHALL WE TEACH THEM A LESSON-- BY KILLING THE HOSTAGE?
DON'T BE STUPID !

IF WE WANT TO TEACH THEM A LESSON... WE SHOULD KILL THE POLICE!
WE'LL KEEP OUR HOSTAGE ALIVE, AND DEMAND RANSOM AFTER RANSOM.
IF WE AREN'T UTTERLY RUTHLESS ABOUT MAKING MONEY FROM THIS...
...WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BUY A NEW HIDEOUT!
IT IS GETTING A LITTLE WORN...
THESE EARTH-MADE FORTRESSES ARE CHEAP-- BUT SO FRAGILE!
IF WE ONLY HAD MONEY I COULD FINALLY BE FREE...
...OF THIS POWER-SUPPRESSION CAST!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
DOWN WITH THE SPECIAL POLICE!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I'M POOR!
SNOOSH

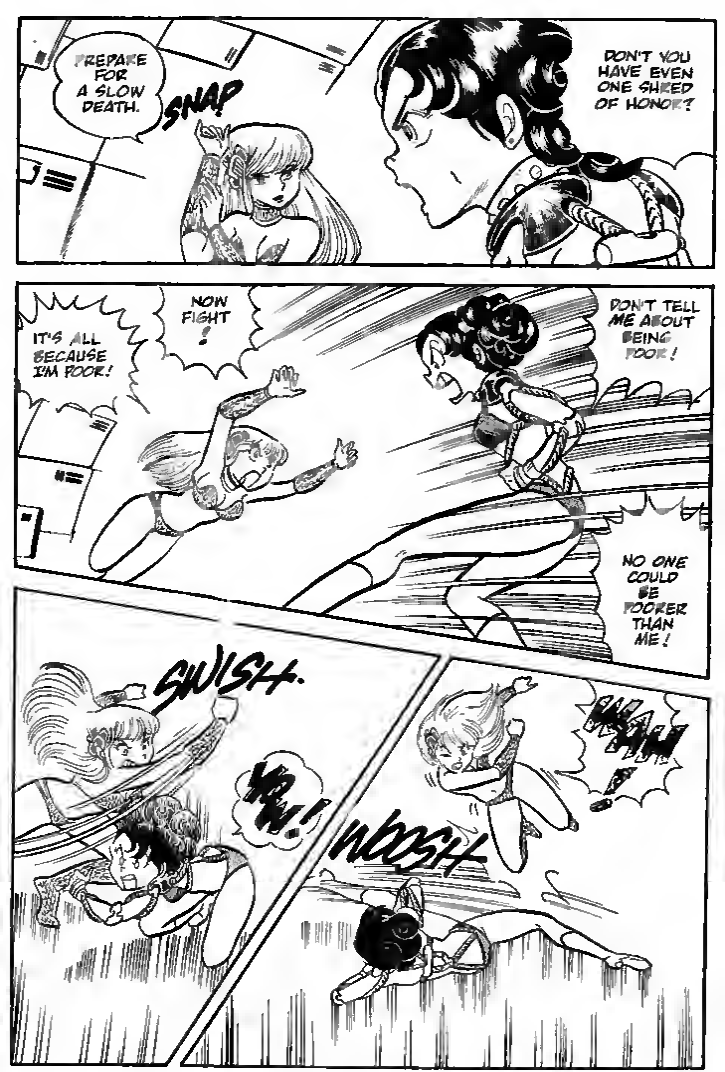
MARIS, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE..?
HOORAY! WE'RE HERE! WE'RE HERE!
I SAY, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE WE COULD SNEAK IN SO EASILY?
$$$ SMAK
I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU, MY PRINCE!
.....
I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM-- PLUS I'LL GIVE YOU ME!
YOU JUST GIVE ME MONEY
HM? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
FORGET IT!
SIZZLE
GRACK
I WAS JUST REMINDING MYSELF NOT TO WASTE TIME TRYING TO HOLD AN INTELLIGENT DISCUSSION WITH YOU!
HWOOOOO

CLICK
ZHOOP
MARIS! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU! ONLY YOU!
BA-BUMP BUMP BUMP
THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES!
WELCOME TO FRAIYL, YOUNG LADY OF THE SPECIAL POLICE!
HA HA HA HA HA
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
YOUR ESCORT AWAITS YOU OUTSIDE

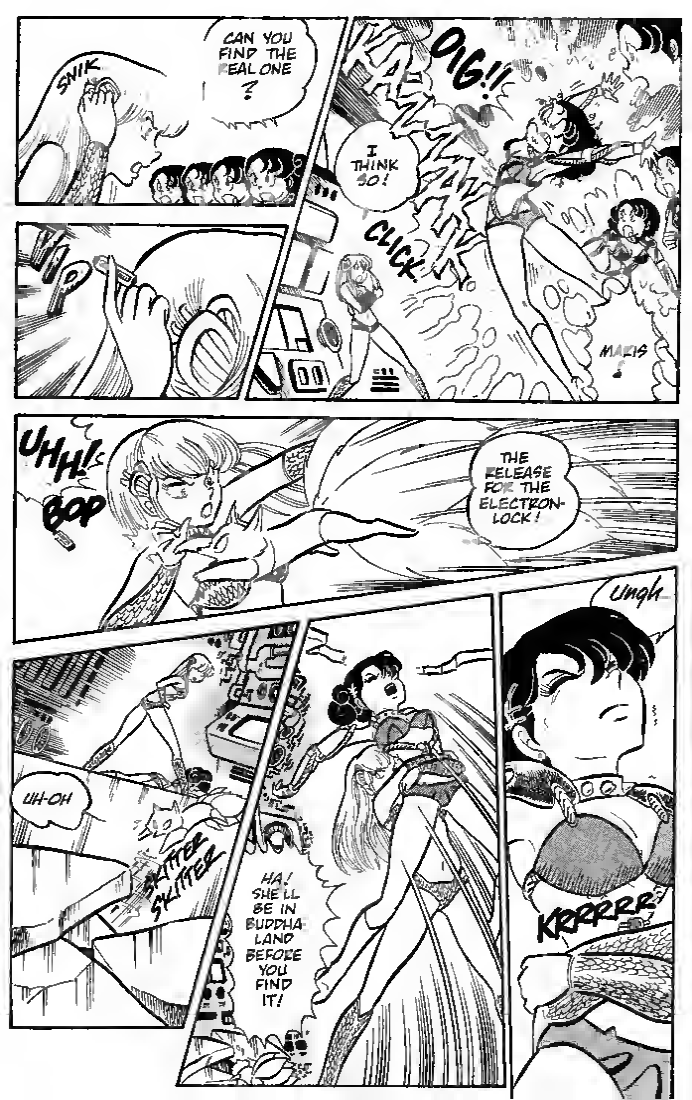

UH-OH. ONE OF THE FRONT LEGS IS COMPLETELY SHOT.
MORE MONEY I OWE.
YOU'RE A THANA-TOSIAN, AREN'T YOU?
ME? GEE, NO! I'M JUST AN EARTHLING!
LIAR! NO EARTHLING COULD MOVE IN A STRENGTH-6 POWER-SUPPRESSION CAST!
CLICK
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
AN ELECTRON-LOCK.. TO MAKE SURE YOUR CAST STAYS ON!
.....

SO, AN EXECUTION, EH..?
YOU'D FIND IT INTERESTING
SQUISH
I'LL KILL HER SO CRUELLY, THE ENTIRE SPACE PATROL WILL SHUDDER.
CAME TO WATCH?
WHIP
WOULD I WASTE MY TIME ON THE EXECUTION OF A MERE INSECT?
WHOO! AN EARTH-MADE PREFAB FORTRESS! DOESN'T THAT LOOK FRAGILE?
QUIET! MY FORTRESS IS FLAWLESS!
AS YOU PLEASE...
CHNK
KSHEEE
GIVE IT YOUR BEST.

WHAT'S THIS PLACE FOR?
HEH HEH HEH— WITH A CAST ON, A THANATOSIAN IS NEARLY AS WEAK AS AN EARTHLING.
MARIS...?
I COULD NEVER BEAT YOU IN A FAIR FIGHT.
MY CAST IS ONLY STRENGTH-3.
SNAP
SWOOSH
ZZAP
FZZL
AK!
REMEMBER THAT, FOX TRY ANYTHING AND THAT HAPPENS TO YOU!


PREPARE FOR A SLOW DEATH.
SNAP
DON'T YOU HAVE EVEN ONE SHRED OF HONOR?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I'M POOR!
NOW FIGHT!
DON'T TELL ME ABOUT BEING POOR!
NO ONE COULD BE POORER THAN ME!
SWISH.
WHOOSH

HWEEE
KONG
WASHH
HEY!
CRACKLE CRACKLE
CRACK
HUH?
WOOOP
AAAA!!
TALK ABOUT FRAGILE!
BA-BA-BUMP
WHA-?!
TUP TUP


SNIK
CAN YOU FIND THE REAL ONE ?
I THINK SO!
OIG!!
CLICK
WHIP
MARIS
UHH!
BOP
THE RELEASE FOR THE ELECTRON-LOCK!
Ungh
UH-OH
SLITTER SLITTER
HA! SHE'LL BE IN BUDDHA LAND BEFORE YOU FIND IT!
KRRRRR

CAN'T... REACH IT...
CAN'T... LAST...
KRRR
GOT IT!
HUH--?
PLOK
SPRONG
YES! I'M FREE!
WHAP
VWOOM
FLANG

BOMP
TAH TAH TAH
KRAK
HEH HEH
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?!
HOME RUN!
SHMANG
NO !!
HOLD IT!
BOING
WHO--?!
SHADDAP!
KRUNCH
STOP! DON'T BREAK IT!

THE RINGLEADER OF THE KIDNAPPERS!
TOOM
THE SAME!
HAND OVER THE MONEY - I MEAN, HOSTAGE!
NOT SO FAST!
TAK TAK
WE'RE GOING TO DIE ALONG WITH THIS FORTRESS
TAKING YOU AND THE HOSTAGE WITH US!
HEH
NO...NO, PLEASE. I... I GIVE UP...
WHUFFO?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW THAT MY HIDEOUT'S ALL SMASHED?
YOU MEAN YOU'RE REALLY GIVING UP?
BOY..
HOW BORING!
GYAA!
KOGANEMARU MATSUSHITA!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU TWO ARE IN CAHOOTS?!
NO, I REALLY DID KIDNAP HIM, BUT.. WELL...
I GOT SO BORED, I DECIDED I WANTED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF THE VILLAIN!
OO! HOW BRAVE! HOW DARING! HOW LIKE A QUADRILLIONAIRE!
OH, MY FORTRESS, MY FORTRESS...AND I EVEN WORE A CAST TO KEEP FROM DESTROYING IT...
BOO HOO
PLEASE, DON'T CRY.
YOU CAN BUILD A BETTER ONE!
WHAT?
I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY FOR IT!
SUZY.. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
FIZZLE
OH, I DO!!
THEN YOU DON'T HATE ME?
WHY WOULD I? IT WAS FUN!

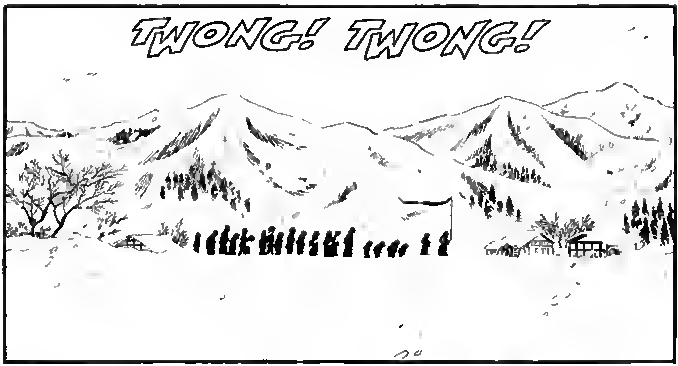
WHAM BAM
WAAAAA
LIEUTENANT MARIS! WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE KIDNAPPING CASE?
WAAAA
MURPHY, I TOLD YOU--I NEVER WANT TO SEE THAT JERK AGAIN!
DO YOU WANT TO PAY FOR FOUR ROCKETS?
CALM DOWN, MARIS!
PUT YOUR CAST ON, MARIS!
MARRY ME, MARIS!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I'M POOR!

The End!

THE LAUGHING
TARGET

SISTER, HE'S ONLY SIX YEARS OLD!
THAT'S FAR TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY PROMISES!
AND I'M TELLING YOU--THE EARLIER, THE BETTER!
AZUSA IS THE ONLY DAUGHTER BORN TO THE SHIGA'S FIRST FAMILY!
SHE HAS TO TAKE A HUSBAND EVENTUALLY IF SHE WISHES TO ACCEDE AS THE FAMILY'S HEAD!
PERHAPS... BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HER HUSBAND HAS TO BE YUZURU!
UNDERSTOOD! BUT BECAUSE YUZURU IS YOUR SON, I HAVE FAITH IN HIM!
IS IT TRUE? AM I REALLY FATED TO BE YUZURU'S BRIDE?
SO IT'S SETTLED THEN? YUZURU WILL BE AZUSA'S BETROTHED?
THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ANSWER!
AS HEAD OF THE SHIGA FAMILY, I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO STAND AGAINST ME!

WELL, AZUSA, THE DEAL IS DONE! WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOU ARE GOING TO BE YUZURU'S BRIDE!
YES, MOTHER..
..AS YOU WISH
WHAT'S WRONG, YUZURU--??
DON'T YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR BRIDE SOMEDAY?
OF COURSE I DO! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LIKE YOU
DO YOU REALLY, YUZURU??
DO YOU REALLY LIKE ME--?
Y-YES... A LOT!
THEN LET'S PLEDGE OURSELVES BY HOOKING OUR LITTLE FINGERS TOGETHER!
WE'LL NEVER BREAK OUR WORD! WE'RE PROMISED FOREVER, OKAY?
OKAY!


TWONG! TWONG!

SOB
SOB
SOB

GOOD-BYE, MOTHER-- I WILL MISS YOU.

WHAT A PITY!
THE GIRL HAD NO FAMILY EXCEPT FOR HER MOTHER!
AND WHAT A STRANGE WAY FOR HER MOTHER TO DIE!

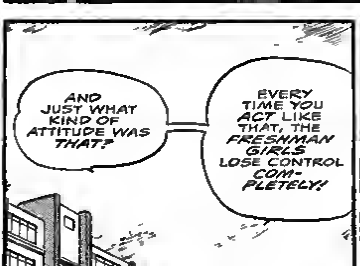
I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP DURING THIS TRYING TIME!
OUR PLEASURE, MISS--BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
I AM GOING TO TAKE AZUSA WITH ME TO TOKYO.
AND THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS FAMILY?
SOONER OR LATER, I AM AFRAID WE WILL HAVE TO SELL THIS MANSION.
UNCLE--NO!
I WILL SIMPLY MARRY YUZURU, AND THEN...
...AND THEN I WILL ACCEDE TO THE SHIGA'S HEAD FAMILY.
THAT IS, AFTER ALL, WHAT MY MOTHER WISHED FOR.
A-AZUSA--??
AND YUZURU, TOO YEARS AGO, HE MADE ME A PROMISE. ...

TOKYO, SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
THRINNNG
TSUNAK
THOK

ALL RIGHT!! HE DID IT! A PERFECT BULL'S-EYE!!
HAH!
YAYYY! YIPEEE!
NICE SHOT, YUZURU!

GIRLS, JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO RUDE!

I APPRECIATE THE PRAISE, LADIES-- BUT I REALLY DON'T NEED IT!
NOT WHEN YOU'RE AS GOOD AS I AM!
HEY, YUZURU!!


AND JUST WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE WAS THAT?
EVERY TIME YOU ACT LIKE THAT, THE FRESHMAN GIRLS LOSE CONTROL COMPLETELY!

OH, SATOMI-- YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS!
WHO? ME--?!?

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TODAY?
HEAD ON OVER TO THE COFFEE SHOP, MAYBE?
AFRAID NOT. THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO TODAY!
MY FIANCÉE IS ARRIVING TODAY FROM OUR HOME TOWN, AND I--
WHAK
OW! WHY DID YOU HIT ME??
YOU HAVE A FIANCÉE-- AND YOU NEVER BOTHERED TO MENTION IT? NOT A SOLITARY WORD?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY BOYFRIEND! IF YOU'VE BEEN TWO-TIMING ME--!
RELAX, WILL YOU? THIS ALL HAPPENED YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS JUST A KID!
BESIDES, SHE'S MY COUSIN!
YOUR COUSIN?!
YOUR COUSIN IS YOUR FIANCÉE--?!?

BOY, TALK ABOUT WEIRD RELATIONSHIPS!!
MY AUNT WAS A VERY STERN WOMAN...
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN--!
SHE JUST SORT OF MADE THE DECISION FOR US WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN...
BUT SHE DIED RECENTLY-- IN A VERY MYSTERIOUS MANNER!
HMM... I SEE...
THEN THAT MEANS YOU'RE EVENTUALLY GOING TO MARRY INTO YOUR HEAD FAMILY!
SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?
I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT AS WELL PUT AN END TO OUR RELATIONSHIP!
YOU CAN BE THE MOST IRRITATING WOMAN SOMETIMES!
WHAT DOES WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO HAVE TO DO WITH TODAY?
FOR ALL WE KNOW, AZUSA MIGHT HAVE A PACK OF BOYFRIENDS BY NOW!
MAYBE... BUT I DOUBT IT!
IF I WERE HER, I'D STILL BE THINKING ONLY ABOUT YOU-- WITH ALL MY HEART!
THAT'S FLATTERING-- BUT I WOULDN'T BET ON IT!

HEY, EVERY-BODY... I'M HOME!
SO WHERE'S AZU-SA?
SHE HAS BEEN WAIT-ING FOR YOU.
HOLY--!!
YUZURU...??
AZUSA!? IS THIS RE-LLY YOU--?!?
OH... YUZU-RU!!
OH, GOOD G-IEF!

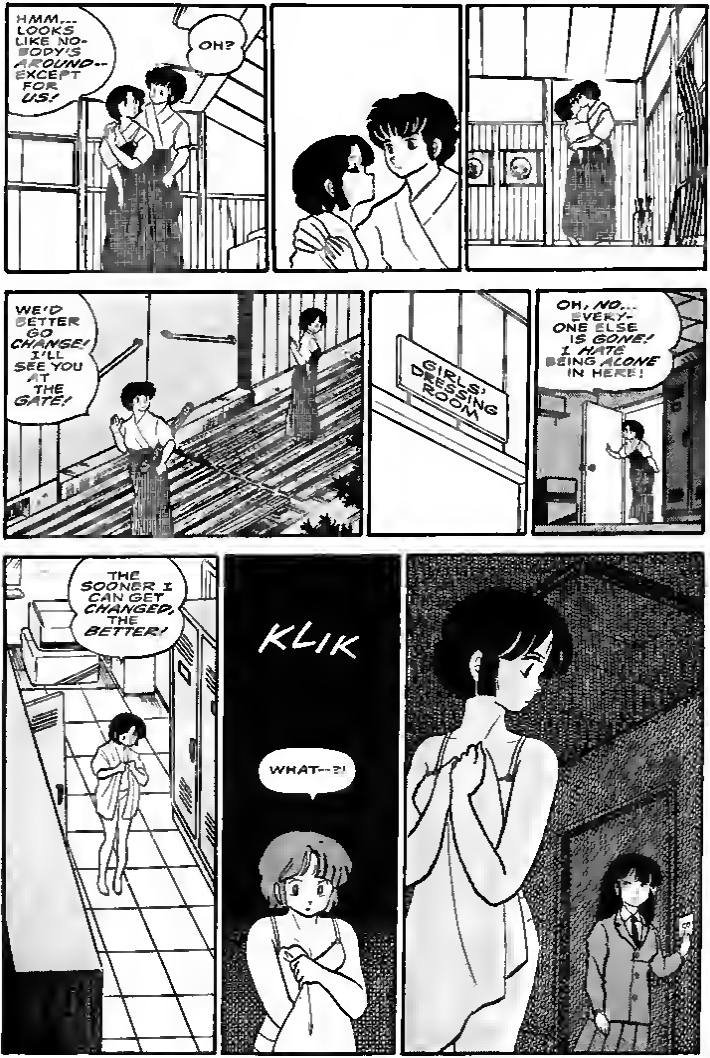
I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU--!
I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS--! SHE'S BECOME SO... SO BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU, AZUSA-- IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN!
YOU TOO!
GEE, I'LL BET YOU'RE REALLY POPULAR WITH THE BOYS!
WELL, I... I...
TO TELL THE TRUTH, YUZURU--
--I'VE NEVER EVEN SPOKEN TO ANY BOYS MY AGE!
WHAT--?!?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
NOT AT ALL!
WHY SHOULD I TALK TO ANOTHER BOY-- WHEN I HAVE YOU?

WOW!
WHO'S SHE?
GEE, SATOMI--LOOK AT THAT!
EH?
HEY, YUZURU--!
UH-OH.
I'LL GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR NERVE!

SHE'S A REAL CUTIE, THIS ONE!
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME, CUTIE?
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME WITH A STIFF LIKE YUZURU?
HEY, LOOK— SHE'S TREMBLING!
GEEZ, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE HER!
HEY, SHE IS SHAKING! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
SIGH
OUCH
HMPH!!
KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLLLANNNGGG
HEY!
SA-TOM!!
C'MON--WAITA-MINNIT, WILL YA?
...
WHY ARE YOU WASTING TIME CHASING ME, YUZURU? YOU DON'T WANT YOUR DARLING FIANCÉE TO THINK YOU'RE IGNORING HER, DO YOU?
OH, GIVE ME A BREAK, SATOMI! I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT HER!
WORRIED? WHO'S WORRIED?
YOU SAID SHE'S YOUR COUSIN, DIDN'T YOU?
SO I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, DO I? SO WHY DO YOU TWO KEEP FLIRTING?
YOU'RE MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL, YOU KNOW!
THEN I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD KINDLY STOP FOLLOWING ME, YOU...YOU MOLE!
I JUST THOUGHT WE COULD WALK TO ARCHERY PRACTICE TOGETHER...

YOU SHOULDN'T THINK OF AZUSA AS A RIVAL, SATOMI! SHE'S ONLY FIXATED ON ME BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE!
SOON NOW, SHE'LL START NOTICING OTHER BOYS--
AND WHEN SHE DOES, I'LL BET SHE WON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY NAME!
YOU CAN THINK WHAT YOU WANT TO, YUZURU--
BUT IF I WERE HER, I'D NEVER LET YOU GO!
SHE REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE?
C'MON--LET'S GET GOING! HERE!
YES, I GUESS SHE IS! WHEN I FIRST SAW HER YESTERDAY, I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW GREAT SHE--
OW! WHAT I ACTUALLY MEANT TO SAY WAS, AZUSA MAY BE BEAUTIFUL BUT YOU'RE REALLY CUTE!
UHH.... I'M JUST GETTING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO TROUBLE, AREN'T I--??
OH, SO I'M CUTE NOW, AM I? LIKE SOME BABY KITTEN? AND JUST HOW EXACTLY DID YOU COME TO THAT BRILLIANT CONCLUSION?
LOOK, SATOMI-- THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT AZUSA IS NOTHING TO ME!
SHE'S MY COUSIN-- THAT'S ALL I AM FOR-GIVEN?
WELL, OKAY... FOR NOW!


HMM... LOOKS LIKE NOBODY'S AROUND-- EXCEPT FOR US!
OH?
WE'D BETTER GO CHANGE! I'LL SEE YOU AT THE GATE!
GIRLS' DRESSING ROOM
OH, NO... EVERY-ONE ELSE IS GONE! I HATE BEING ALONE IN HERE!
THE SOONER I CAN GET CHANGED, THE BETTER!
KLIK
WHAT--?!

A-AZUSA? WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM YUZURU!
YUZURU IS MY FIANCÉE--MY BE-TROTHED!
DON'T TRY TO COME BE-TWEEN US!
Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
YOU AND YUZURU WERE EN-GAGED WHEN YOU WERE JUST CHIL-DREN!
YOU CAN'T REALLY INTEND TO HOLD HIM TO HIS PROMISE NOW--?!
THAT IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! YUZURU IS MINE!

WHOOOO WEEOOO
AAAII-EEEEE-EEE!!
CHEE CHEE CHEE CH
NO!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
EHUHN EHUHN EHUHN
SATOMI, WHAT YOU JUST SAW--
--MENTION NONE OF IT TO YUZURU!!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND??
I... I...

KLACH
SLAM
I WONDER WHAT'S KEEP-ING HER SO LONG?
SO THERE YOU ARE, SA-TOMI!
Y-YUZURU--??
GASP GASP GASP
WHAT IS IT, SA-TOMI? WHAT'S WRONG??
IT--IT'S AZUSA! SHE--SHE WAS--
AZUSA??
WHOO WEEOO

YUZURU, LOOK... OVER THERE!
WHAT?!
WHOOOOOOOOOOOO
IT WAS ONLY THE WIND! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SATOMI?
BUT I... SHE...
FORGET IT, YUZURU.. IT WAS NOTHING.
...MENTION NONE OF IT TO YUZURU..
...MENTION NONE OF IT...
SAK
KAA
KAA
TYOK

THOK
THOK
THOK
....
EHUH EHUH EHUH EHUH
AZUSA-- WAIT! DON'T RUN!!
WHY SHOULD YOU MIND BECOMING NAKED? DON'T YOU DO IT IN FRONT OF YOUR FIANCÉE?
THRAK

SHE'S DISAPPEARED!
WELL, SPREAD OUT AND KEEP LOOKING! SHE COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR!
KRUNCH
THRASH
SKRAK
SHUN SHUN SHUN
OH, YUZURU ...
... PLEASE HELP ME!
SKRAK
SSSH
NO !!!
THRASH
OUCH! HEY, DON'T BITE!

YOU LOUSY LITTLE--! THAT HURT!
SWAK
WHAK WHAK
THWUD
UUNNHH!
EHUH--!!!
THROKK
THROK
THROK
FLESH

WOOOOOOOOOO
THUD
SO I HEAR THAT THIS ONE IS YUZURU'S FIANCEE!
ISN'T THAT SWEET?
DOING IT TO SOME ONE ELSE'S GIRL ONLY MAKES ME THAT MUCH MORE--
UKKH!

SNAKKKT
GOD--
NO!!
AGHHHH
THUD

AARRGHH!!
HEH
I WISH... I WISH...
I WISH HE'D JUST DIS-APPEAR!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT--IT WASN'T MY FAULT--!
WHAT WILL I DO?
WHOOWEEEO
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
CHEE CHEE CHEE

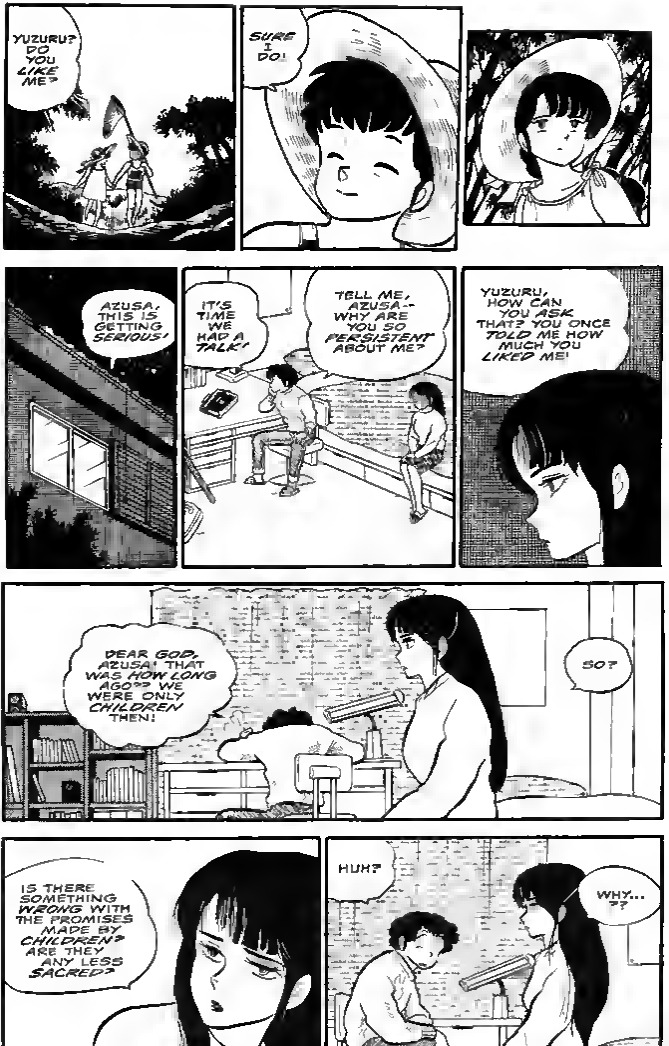
CHEE CHEE CHEE
SKITTER SKITTER
SKITTER SKITTER
HUH?
WH-WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
WH-WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO HIM?
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH
DEAR GOD--THEY'RE EATING!!
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH
WHOOOOWEEEEO
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH
I BELONG TO YUZURU ALONE!
GOD HELP ANYONE ELSE WHO DARES TO TOUCH ME!

SO YOUR SON HASN'T COME HOME YET--?
NO, AND WHEN I ASKED HIS FRIENDS--
--THEY SAID THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEEN HIM WAS WITH YOUR DAUGHTER!
WHAK
AZUSA, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
NO, MOTHER NOT A THING.
THEY SAY EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IS OUT SEARCHING FOR HIM.
ALL THIS FUSS OVER SUCH AN UNWORTHY CHILD...
HE STEALS THINGS FROM THE FARMS, YOU KNOW-- AND DOES TERRIBLE, NAUGHTY THINGS TO LITTLE GIRLS!
SUCH AN UNPLEASANT LITTLE BOY.
FRANKLY, I FOR ONE WOULD FEEL MUCH BETTER IF HE WERE NEVER FOUND!
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

CHEE CHEE CHEE
TASTE GOOD--?
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH
THIS STUPID DOG BIT ME--
--SO I FED HIM RAT POISON AND WATCHED HIM DIE!
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH
SERVES THE NASTY LITTLE CREATURE RIGHT!
AZUSA !?!
KRUNCH KRUNCH
GET AWAY FROM HERE !!
GO AWAY !!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER-- DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! THEY'RE MY FRIENDS!
GO AHEAD, LITTLE ONES-- FINISH YOUR MEAL!
OH, AZUSA--!!
CHEE CHEE
MY POOR DEAR AZUSA ...

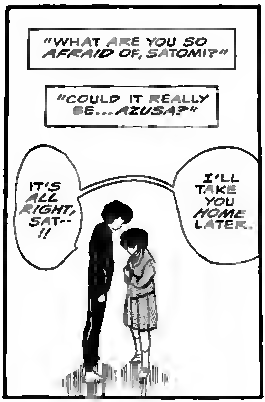
WOULD YOU LIKE A SECOND HELPING, YUZURU?
NO, THANK YOU, MOTHER.
I WONDER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO SATOMI--? SHE REFUSED TO EVEN TALK ABOUT IT!
SNORK
THIKT-TIK-TIK-TIK
HELLO... THIS IS YUZURU--
MAY I SPEAK TO SATOMI, PLEASE?
KLIKT

AZUSA, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THAT WAS REALLY RUDE!
I'M SORRY, YUZURU.
WHY DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOU, YUZURU--!
C'MON, AZUSA-- IT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY ABOUT IT!
I'M... I'M SO ASHAMED....
AZUSA, COME HERE, PLEASE!
YES, MOTHER.
THIS IS IMPORTANT, CHILD-- SO LISTEN TO ME!
YOU KNOW THOSE WEIRD CREATURES OF YOURS?
WELL, YOU MUST NEVER SHOW THEM TO YUZURU! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
HE WON'T LIKE YOU ANY MORE IF HE SEES THEM-- AND YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, DO YOU?
OH, NO, MOTHER! NOT THAT--!!

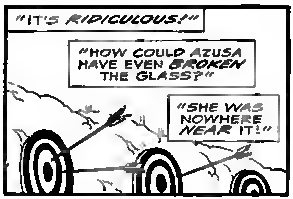

YUZURU? DO YOU LIKE ME?
SURE I DO!
AZUSA, THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS!
IT'S TIME WE HAD A TALK!
TELL ME, AZUSA-- WHY ARE YOU SO PERSISTENT ABOUT ME?
YUZURU, HOW CAN YOU ASK THAT? YOU ONCE TOLD ME HOW MUCH YOU LIKED ME!
DEAR GOD, AZUSA! THAT WAS HOW LONG AGO?! WE WERE ONLY CHILDREN THEN!
SO?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE PROMISES MADE BY CHILDREN? ARE THEY ANY LESS SACRED?
HUH?
WHY...?!

SATOMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU LOOK REALLY DE-PRESSED!
THIS IS ALL HER FAULT!
SHE'S STILL TRYING TO TAKE YUZURU AWAY FROM ME!
SKRASH

GOOD GOD! THAT WINDOW JUST SHATTERED-- ALL BY ITSELF!!
BUT WHY? HOW..?!?
SATOMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
SA-TOMI? OH, POOR SA-TOMI!!
.....
.....
DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD GO HOME EARLY, SATOMI?
NURSE
N-NO...
PLEASE... NO! I-- I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW...

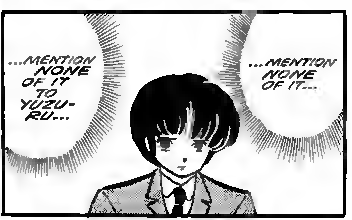

"WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF, SATOMI?"
"COULD IT REALLY BE...AZUSA?"
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SAT--!!
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME LATER.

"I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT..."
"...NOT AZUSA!"

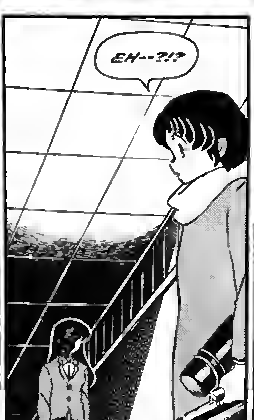

"IT'S RIDICULOUS!"
"HOW COULD AZUSA HAVE EVEN BROKEN THE GLASS?"
"SHE WAS NOWHERE NEAR IT!"

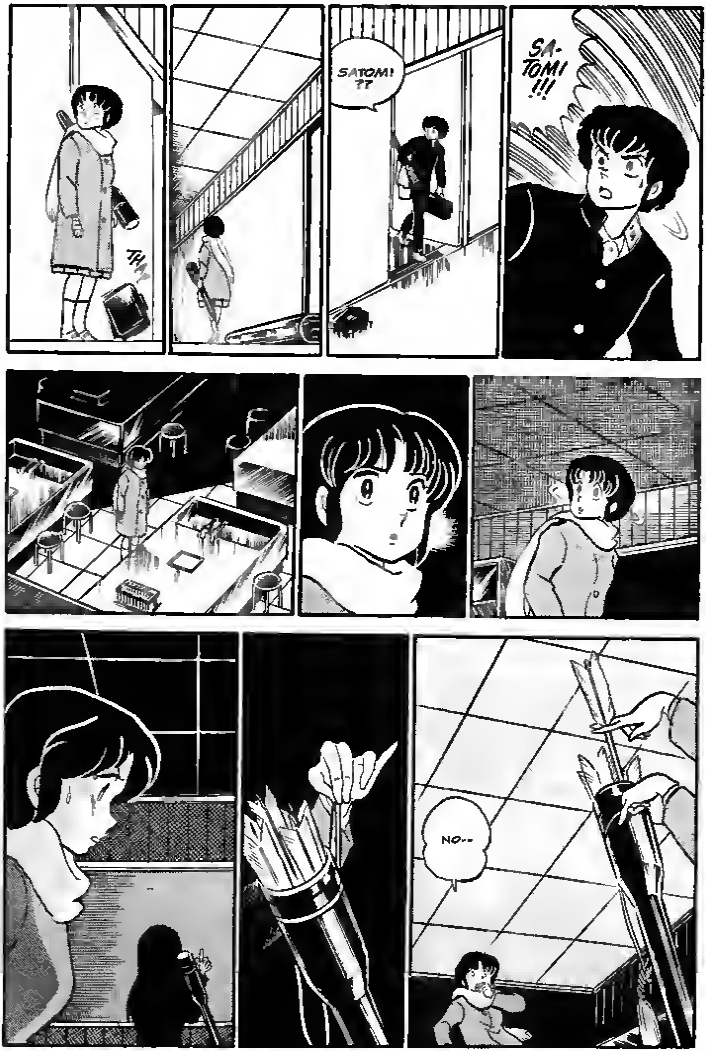
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!"

THOK


...MENTION NONE OF IT TO YUZURU...
...MENTION NONE OF IT...

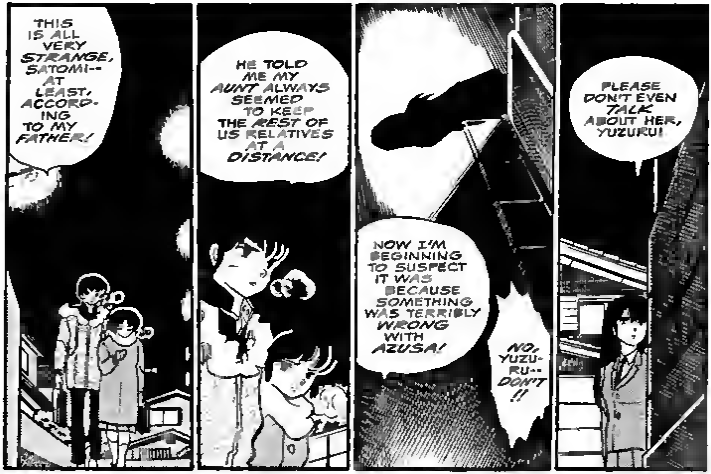
IT'S NO USE! I JUST CAN'T TELL YUZURU!
BESIDES, HE'D NEVER BELIEVE ME--!
GYM LOCKER ROOM

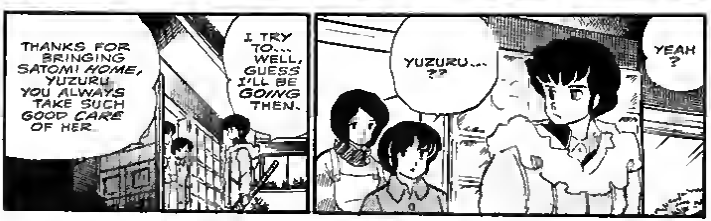

EH--?!?


TH...
SATOMI ??
SA-TOMI !!!
NO--

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
THOK
THOK
PLEASE--
STOP
IT!!
SA-
TOMI
!!!
SLAM
THOK
THOK
GET
DOWN!!

AZUSA ?!?
THOK
SA-TOMI, SPEAK TO ME!
UHUH UHUH
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
IT WAS AZUSA, WASN'T IT? WASN'T IT..?!?
I--I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T BE SURE!
PLEASE, YUZURU.. I JUST WANT TO GO HOME...
IT'S OKAY, SATOMI-- IT'S GONNA BE OKAY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!


THIS IS ALL VERY STRANGE, SATOMI-- AT LEAST, ACCORDING TO MY FATHER!
HE TOLD ME MY AUNT ALWAYS SEEMED TO KEEP THE REST OF US RELATIVES AT A DISTANCE!
NOW I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT IT WAS BECAUSE SOMETHING WAS TERRIBLY WRONG WITH AZUSA!
NO, YUZURU-- DON'T!!
PLEASE DON'T EVEN TALK ABOUT HER, YUZURU!

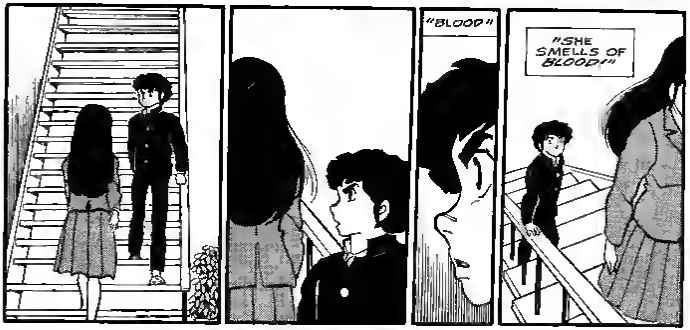

THANKS FOR BRINGING SATOMI HOME, YUZURU. YOU ALWAYS TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF HER.
I TRY TO... WELL, GUESS I'LL BE GOING THEN.
YUZURU...??
YEAH?

PLEASE... BE CAREFUL.
HEY, AREN'T I ALWAYS?
SLAM
PANT
PANT

GOOD DOG, JUN. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR MISTRESS, OKAY?
ARF!
YIP?
GGGRRR
RARF RARF RARF
BE SILENT!
RARF RARF

AAAWOOO--ack
JUN--?!? IS SOMETHING WRONG, PUPPY?
OH, DEAR GOD--
NO!!
MOTHER, WHAT IS IT--?
IT'S JUN, DAUGHTER! HE'S, HE'S... DEAD!
THIS IS ALL HER FAULT! SOMEHOW SHE DID IT!
BUT HOW COULD SHE--? HOW COULD SHE MURDER AN INNOCENT DOG?!?
AND... AM I NEXT?
SO THERE YOU ARE.

MIND TELLING ME WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?
YES.
KNOCK


"BLOOD"
"SHE SMELLS OF BLOOD!"

"SATOMI!!"
SLAM

YOU LITTLE MONSTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SATOMI?!
TELL ME, AZUSA! TELL ME NOW, OR I SWEAR I'LL--
PLEASE, YUZURU--DON'T!! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--!
DON'T LIE TO ME! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING!
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING ANYTHING!
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME, YUZURU...
PLEASE DON'T BE CRUEL!
EHUH EHUH EHUH
SLAM
HELLO ??
MAY I SPEAK TO SATOMI, PLEASE ??

HELLO??
S-SA-TOMI...? OH, THANK GOD!
YUZURU, I'M SORRY...
...BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN COME TO SCHOOL ANY MORE!
WHAT?!?
PLEASE, SA-TOMI--TELL ME WHY!
IF IT'S SOMETHING AZUSA DID TO YOU--!
....
TELL ME, YUZURU... HAS SHE COME HOME?
YES... A LITTLE WHILE AGO. WHY?
I--I STILL WON'T GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW--BUT I WILL GO TO THE ARCHERY CLUB'S PRAC-TICE HALL...
...AT SIX P.M.!
WAIT FOR ME THERE--BUT MAKE CERTAIN NOT TO BE SEEN BY HER!
OKAY--SEE YOU THEN!
KLAK
AZUSA...??
I THINK I'M FINALLY STARTING TO UNDER-STAND WHAT THEY ARE, DAUGHTER--THOSE CREATURES WHO FOLLOW YOU!
THEY ARE THE ONES OF LEGEND...
...THOSE WHO ARE CALLED THE HUNGRY GHOSTS!
AND THEY LIVE IN THE SHADOWS--WAITING FOR DEAD MEAT!

BECAUSE I AM DUTY-BOUND TO PROTECT THE SHIGA FAMILY--
--I HAVE BEEN TOLERATING THEM... UNTIL NOW!
BUT I JUST CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE!
M-MOTHER--?!?
OH-- AZUSA!
FORGIVE ME, DAUGHTER-- BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO ACCEDE TO THE SHIGA HEAD FAMILY!
MOTHER, DON'T! YOU'RE STRANGLING ME--!!
I AM SORRY, MY CHILD-- BUT THIS HEAD FAMILY WILL END WITH ME!
NO!
NO!
I AM GOING TO BE YUZURU'S BRIDE!!

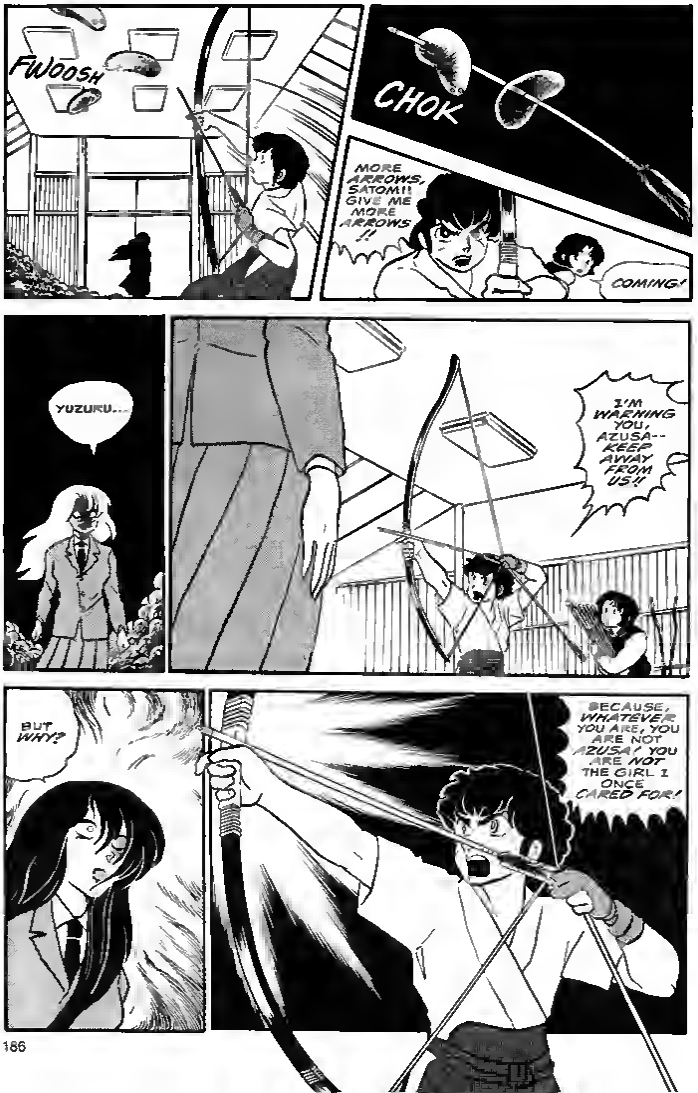
NO, YOU'RE NOT!!
YOU ARE A DEMON-- A DEMON !!!
AAAA

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT
NO ONE CAN BE ALLOWED TO COME BETWEEN ME AND YUZURU.
...NOT MY OWN MOTHER...
...NO ONE...
NOT EVEN THAT FOOLISH GIRL IN SCHOOL...
CHE CHE CHE
NO... ESPE-CIALLY NOT HER!
AREN'T YOU GOING HOME, YUZU-RU?
NO, NOT YET.
.....
SQUEE

YUZURU...
SATOMI...??
OH, YUZURU--I'M SO SCARED! SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME!!
AND IT APPEARS I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU SOONER!
AZUSA?

AAWEEOOEE
AAWED
OH... MY... GOD!!
KILL HER, MY PETS! KILL HER NOW!!

SHOOP
THAP
THWUDD
THWUDD
THOK
CHEE
CHEE
CHE
ENOUGH!!


FWOOSH
CHOK
MORE ARROWS, SATOMI! GIVE ME MORE ARROWS!!
COMING!
YUZURU...
I'M WARNING YOU, AZUSA--KEEP AWAY FROM US!
BUT WHY?
BECAUSE, WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU ARE NOT AZUSA! YOU ARE NOT THE GIRL I ONCE CARED FOR!

SWIIISH
WHY, YUZURU? WHY MUST YOU BE SO CRUEL??
DO YOU REALLY HATE ME, YUZURU?
DO YOU REALLY HATE ME THAT MUCH--?!?
AAAWWEEEOOO
DEAR GOD!! NOOOO!!!

TWANGG
UNNHHHH

UUHHH
SHHHLIKKK
SHUSH
THUK
P-PLEASE COME TO ME, YU-ZURU.... I-I NEED YOU...
Y-YUZURU ?

AZUSA--??
I AM YOURS, YUZURU... I WILL ALWAYS BE YOURS...
AZUSA, WHAT WERE THOSE THINGS?
PLEASE... DON'T HATE ME FOR WHAT I'VE DONE...
IT... IT WASN'T MY FAULT...
IT WAS THOSE LITTLE MONSTERS, WASN'T IT? THEY FORCED YOU TO DO THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS!
THEY USED YOU!
Y-YES... THAT'S RIGHT... IT WAS THEM... ALL THEIR FAULT...
"AFTER ALL... I LOVE YOU..."
"LIKE I PROMISED... I ALWAYS WOULD..."
YOU KNOW.. THAT I WOULD NEVER HURT YOU, YUZURU..
The END